



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish & Wildlife News

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'Help is on the way,' Secretary Norton Tells Fisheries Meeting; Joins Director in Signaling A Turning Point for Program

With President Bush asking for an \$8 million increase in the National Fish Hatchery System budget, Interior Secretary Gale Norton promised that "help is on the way" and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams assured delegates to the first National Fisheries Leadership Conference in January that the fisheries program is "turning a corner."

It was news that left the 500 Service fisheries program leaders and their partners ebullient and energized at the end of their four-day conference, organized around planning for implementation of the program's new Strategic Vision—the program's roadmap for the beginning of the 21st century.

The Vision document, an outgrowth of an effort that began in 1999 in conjunction with the Sport Fishing, Boating and Partnership Council, contains a mission statement and a set of criteria that the fisheries program will use in deciding which activities to undertake in the future, including the likelihood that a given effort will produce measurable results, as well as significant economic or social benefits, among others.

But it was the news of the President's budget request, delivered by Secretary Norton, as well as the ringing support of the program voiced both by the Secretary and Director Williams, that caught the delegates' attention.

The President's proposed budget for the National Fish Hatchery System has been increased by more than \$8 million above last year's request," Secretary Norton told the conference delegates. "That's a 16 percent increase, from \$50 million to \$58 million, toward funding your vision."

Secretary Norton also lauded the Service Fisheries Program personnel who "labored to come up with a strategic plan that has convinced Washington that it's time to increase your funding. Now it's going to be up to you to follow the strategic thinking and planning you have done with follow-through and results.

"Help," said Secretary Norton, "is on the way."

Director Steve Williams reinforced the Secretary's comments when he addressed the conferees at their evening banquet.

"I truly have a sense... that we are turning a corner," Williams said. "I can't tell you how long the turn will take to complete. I can't tell you how fast we'll get to the next objective. But as we are frequently reminded, success is a journey, not a destination."

"The pride and passion of our fisheries program employees is clearly evident," Williams continued. "You have carried us to where we are, in spite of difficult times. The Service has much to be proud of in our leadership in fisheries and aquatic resource conservation. Resolving real and perceived issues and revitalizing the fisheries program are among my top priorities."

The conference is the first for a Fish and Wildlife Service program that traces its roots to the U.S. Fish Commission, established by President Grant in 1871, and was convened principally to unveil the program's years-in-the-making Strategic Vision, which will be the blueprint for the program's operations in the next several decades.

The Vision document is an outgrowth of an effort that began in 1999, when the Service asked the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, a federally-chartered advisory group to the Interior Secretary, to offer recommendations about the role and mission of the National Fish Hatchery System. The council, composed of representatives from state and other Federal agencies, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, private industry and academia, went on to complete a second set of recommendations for the entire fisheries program.

"It's difficult to find words to adequately describe how Fisheries people felt when this conference ended," said Cathleen Short, former Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation. "There was an energy and an excitement that this program hasn't seen in years. The support for fisheries from this Administration, from the Secretary and from our Director has put us on new footing and on a new course. And it's very exciting."

Delegates spent much of the conference time huddled in smaller sessions, where they discussed the timelines and mechanics of implementing the Strategic Vision at the local and Regional levels.

Williams said in turn that the Strategic Vision itself will be "periodically reviewed" to insure that it remains timely, workable and effective, and both he and Secretary Norton underscored the importance of partnerships.

"The work you did on this Vision document is a clear illustration of how we should do our work at the Interior Department," Secretary Norton said. "I mentioned the 4 Cs earlier. I am pleased to see them in action... the only way we can make improvements is when our partnerships are successful."

Ken Burton, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Fisheries Program Thanks SFBPC Steering Committee, Others

Director Steve Williams presented 38 awards of appreciation at the National Fisheries Leadership Conference, recognizing the work of members of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Steering Committee, which included a number of Fish and Wildlife Service staff. Williams noted the "dedication and hard work" on behalf of all the recipients that led to the creation of the Fisheries Program's new Strategic Vision, which Williams heralded as a model partnership effort.

Award recipients include Jim Anderson, Bob Batky, Hannibal Bolton, Dan Diggs, Jaime Geiger, Doug Hansen, Kelly Hepler, Doug Inkley, Gary Isbell, Gerry Jackson, Linda Kelsey, Robin Knox, Mary Gessner, John Kimball, Bill Knapp, Jeff Koenings, Jim Kurth, Ron Lukens, Jim Martin, Bob Miles, Frederic Miller, Phil Million, Christine Moffitt, Jim Mosher, Steve Moyer, Gary Myers, Norville Prosser, Jim Range, Stephen Rideout, Gordon Robertson, Don Sampson, Cathleen Short, Bruce Shupp, LaVerne Smith, Doug Stang, Lynn Starnes, Norman Stucky, Whitney Tilt, Jim Zorn, John Rogers, Mike Oetker and Laury Paramore.

Service Changes Management

In case you missed it...



David B. Allen



Dan Ashe



Anne Badgley



Rowan Gould



William F. Hartwig



Thomas O. Melius

In January, the Service announced proposed changes in assignment for members of its top leadership team in several Regional and Washington headquarters offices.

"The Service has a team of talented and dedicated leaders," said Service director Steve Williams.

"After nearly a year as Director, I am proposing new assignments within the leadership team to better apply talents of top managers to priorities and challenges before us." All of the positions involved in the proposed changes are part of the government's Senior Executive Service.

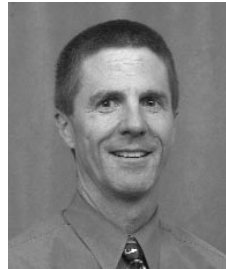
Williams also announced the creation of a new Assistant Director position for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration as provided in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. No selection has been made for this position. The new Assistant Director will be responsible for managing the Service's Federal Aid programs that provide millions of dollars in excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing tackle and related products to state fish and wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation.

On the cover:

Secretary Gale Norton and Director Steve Williams at the Pelican Island boardwalk dedication. Earlier, Pelican Island Elementary school children assisted Norton in the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication.



Dr. Mamie Parker



Paul R. Schmidt



Robyn Thorson

The new assignments are as follows:

David B. Allen, previously the Service's Alaska Regional Director in Anchorage, to Regional Director of the Service's Pacific Region in Portland, Oregon.

Dan Ashe, previously Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, to Senior Science Advisor to the Director. In this new position, he will be responsible for strengthening the Service's science programs, one of the top priorities of Director Steve Williams.

Anne Badgley, previously Regional Director in Portland, to Executive Director of the Regional Ecosystem Office in Portland, which is responsible for implementing the Northwest Forest Plan.

Rowan Gould, previously the Deputy Regional Director in Portland, Oregon, to Regional Director in Anchorage for the Alaska Region.

William F. Hartwig, previously Regional Director for the Great Lakes, Big Rivers region in Twin Cities, Minnesota, to Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System in Washington, D.C.

Thomas O. Melius, previously Assistant Director for the former Migratory Birds and State Programs, to Assistant Director for External Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mamie Parker, previously Regional Director in the Service's Northeast Region, to Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, replacing Cathleen Short, who retired.

Paul R. Schmidt, previously Deputy Assistant Director of the former Migratory Birds and State Programs, to Assistant Director for Migratory Birds.

Robyn Thorson, previously Assistant Director for External Affairs in Washington, D.C., to Regional Director in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region.

Megan Durham, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Wheelin' Sportsmen on Refuges



Sealed deal. Service Director Steve Williams signs on as Dr. James Earl Kennamer, Senior Vice President of NWTF (back) and Kirk Thomas, Wheelin' Sportsman National Coordinator, looks on.

Increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to hunt, fish, and otherwise enjoy outdoor recreational activities on the 540 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System was the focus of an agreement signed in March by the Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) Wheelin' Sportsmen program.

In signing the agreement, Service Director Steve Williams lauded NWTF and Wheelin' Sportsmen for really making a difference in sharing the outdoors with young people, women, and people with disabilities.

"This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System," Williams said. "There could be no better time for us to join with NWTF and Wheelin' Sportsmen to find ways to open new doors to the outdoors for disabled people."

The agreement was also signed by Kirk Thomas, Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF national coordinator.

"I want to thank the Service for their commitment to give disabled people the opportunity to participate in the great outdoors," said Thomas. "We may not be able to reach every disabled individual in North America, but with this MOU that we're signing here today, we've taken an important step toward that goal."

The agreement calls for the FWS and Wheelin' Sportsmen officials and members to identify a minimum of four cooperative events on refuges during the first year. It also commits both organizations to work together at the national, regional and local level to increase public awareness of both the Wheelin' Sportsmen program and the National Wildlife Refuge System's centennial celebration.

"This is a good start," said Williams, "but with more than 50 million disabled people in this country, I hope we can figure ways to do even more."

The agreement was signed at Cooleemee Plantation near Winston Salem, NC, during a press tour coordinated by the Wildlife Management Institute in conjunction with the 68th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, a major gathering of wildlife officials and organizations.

Wheelin' Sportsmen provides all disabled people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors through chapter events across the country. Through this program, disabled participants enjoy activities such as hunting, fishing and shooting with an able bodied partner.

Phil Million, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Arlington, Virginia

U.S. Leads the Way in Protecting Imperiled Species

The United States delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Craig Manson, played a pivotal role in ensuring conservation of imperiled species of whales, sharks, seahorses and Asian turtles at the 12th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in November.

The United States also facilitated dialogue among range states during the two-week meeting in Santiago, Chile, on proposals related to elephants, mahogany, and Patagonian toothfish, three of the high-profile species debated by the more than 150 nations at the conference.

"We accomplished virtually all of our objectives for the conference," Manson said. "I am particularly pleased with the passage of U.S. proposals to conserve seahorses and a variety of species of Asian turtles that have been threatened by over-harvesting and commercial trade. Trade in these species will now be tightly regulated."

On the elephant issue, delegates voted to allow Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa to hold a one-time sale of stockpiled ivory



Wetland expert exchange. Chinese wetland experts Guo Hongyan, Zhong Mingchuan, Wang Zhangming, and Huang Tingfa, escorted by International Affairs representative Peter Ward and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Ranger Sallie Gentry, outside the historic Chesser Island Homestead at Okefenokee NWR. These experts from China's State Forestry Administration visited last November as part of an exchange program with the Service. The Chinese government has placed increasing attention on the many benefits of wetlands conservation following torrential floods in 1998, contaminant problems and diminishing wildlife habitat. The China State Forestry Administration operates China's nature reserves and is the counterpart agency to the Service. Sallie Gentry, Refuge Ranger, Okefenokee NWR. FWS photo.

Service Reports on Birds of Conservation Concern

collected from elephants who died naturally to fund conservation and community development efforts in areas where elephants live. The sale will be conducted under strict regulations proposed by the U.S. delegation to ensure they are consistent with long-term conservation of elephant populations in both Africa and Asia.

The United States came to the conference with an undecided position on the ivory sales with the intention of holding discussions with elephant range countries that themselves were sharply divided about ivory sales.

"Emotions run high anytime you bring up the issue of elephants," Manson said. "We took a reasoned approach, recognizing that both sides of the debate had good arguments to make. In the end, we supported a solution that will allow Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa to raise funds for elephant conservation through a one-time sale while providing safeguards to ensure the sale will not hurt elephant populations."

"The one-time sale will be good for elephant conservation," he said.

The United States played a similar role with mahogany, acting as a mediator between range states that disagreed about the need for strict controls on international trade. In the end, the United States supported a proposal by Guatemala and Nicaragua to list mahogany in Appendix II of the convention, which requires any shipment of mahogany to be accompanied by an export permit affirming that it is was legally harvested in a way that is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

"We discussed the issue with the range states and concluded that strict international trade regulations are necessary to conserve these magnificent trees," Manson said. "We were extremely pleased when the proposal to list mahogany in Appendix II passed."

U.S. consumers will still be able to purchase mahogany furniture but now will have the assurance that what they buy is made with mahogany that was legally and sustainably harvested and imported.



Team U.S.A. Assistant Secretary Craig Manson, Deputy Service Director Marshall Jones and Assistant Secretary of State John Turner at the CITES conference. DOI photo: Hugh Vickery.

On the toothfish (also known as Chilean sea bass) issue, the United States helped work out an agreement between Australia and Chile that will improve international monitoring of harvest and trade of the deep-sea fish, which is threatened by over-harvesting and illegal fishing. The resolution will improve monitoring of harvests and international trade in the species. As a result of the resolution, Australia withdrew a proposal to list the species in Appendix II.

"Once again, range states disagreed sharply over the need to protect a species — the Australians wanted to list toothfish in Appendix II while the Chileans were strongly opposed," Manson said. "We quietly conferred with both countries and with other range states to come up with an acceptable proposal that will lead to better conservation of the species."

"While loud protests and sloganeering get the headlines at CITES, quiet diplomacy gets the results," he said.

Hugh Vickery, DOI Office of Communications, Washington, D.C.

Emphasizing the need to conserve declining species long before they require the protection of the Endangered Species Act, the Service released its Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 report in February. The report identifies more than 100 bird species that deserve prompt conservation attention to stabilize or increase populations or to secure threatened habitats.

The report will assist efforts by Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, private companies, and landowners to protect and restore bird habitat and reduce the impact of their activities on species of concern. In addition, species included in this report can be given priority consideration for funding for research, monitoring, and management.

"We need to do more to protect declining species before they become threatened or endangered," said Interior Secretary Gale Norton. "This list will help the Service work in partnership with states, conservation groups, and others with an interest in bird conservation to take action now to keep species from declining to the point of requiring listing under the Endangered Species Act. It provides a road map for conserving hundreds of bird species across the country that have suffered habitat and population losses."

Developed in consultation with the leaders of ongoing bird conservation initiatives and partnerships such as Partners in Flight, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the list prioritizes species based on the threats they face and the declines they have suffered. Species that are currently declining or uncommon, have small ranges, and face significant threats to their future survival were included on the list. The list will be used by a broad array of agencies and organizations to shape spending and research priorities, habitat acquisition and restoration needs and to minimize the impacts of their activities on identified species.

"The Federal government needs to take the lead in efforts to conserve migratory birds. Release of this report will guide ongoing

Service Reports on Birds of Conservation Concern (continued)



One of 131 species on the National BCC list.
The black skimmer's fate is unsure due to loss and pressures on its beach habitat. More research and monitoring is needed.
 FWS photo: Gary Kramer.

efforts to avoid impacts to migratory birds, and enhance migratory bird conservation,” said Service Director Steve Williams.

Release of the 2002 report takes on special significance for Federal agencies. Executive Order 13186 directs all Federal agencies taking actions having or likely to have a negative impact on migratory bird populations to work with the Service to develop an agreement to conserve those birds, focusing on species identified in the Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 report. As a result, the Service is currently developing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with dozens of Federal agencies that will help guide future agency actions and policy decisions; renewal of permits, contracts or other agreements; and the creation of or revisions to land management plans.

In addition to avoiding or minimizing impacts to bird populations of conservation concern, agencies will be expected to take reasonable steps to restore and enhance habitats, prevent or abate pollution affecting birds, and incorporate migratory bird conservation into agency planning processes whenever possible and to the extent that these actions are compatible with their primary missions.

The development of an “early warning” list of bird species in potential trouble is mandated by a 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The number of such species has grown from 30 in 1987, to 122 in 1995, to 131 in 2002. This growth partly reflects the addition of eligible species in Hawaii and other U.S. Pacific Islands. Scientists also know more about the status of some bird species and that knowledge has increased the pool of eligible species. Publication of the 2002 report is expected to prompt heightened efforts to improve habitat conditions, conduct monitoring, and initiate status assessments for some of the highest priority species.

The newly revised report is actually a series of 45 individual lists that identifies bird species of concern at national, regional and landscape scales. The lists include a principal national list, seven regional lists corresponding to the Service’s regional administrative units, and species lists for each of 37 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the U.S. designated and endorsed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. The BCR lists will help focus on-the-ground conservation actions on the highest priority species. The 1987 and 1995 reports did not identify species at the BCR level, thus limiting their effectiveness for identifying species that may be relatively abundant nationally or regionally but in steep decline in smaller but still ecologically significant areas such as BCRs.

Copies of the Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 is available for downloading on the Division of Migratory Bird Management’s web page at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>.

John Trapp, Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia

Service Hosts First Conservation Forum for Hunting and Fishing

A Fish and Wildlife Service initiative to rekindle ties to its traditional hunting, fishing and trapping constituencies took place on the snowiest week in February as 34 conservation organizations ranging from the Boone and Crockett Club and the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance to the American Fisheries Society and Trout Unlimited gathered at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The two-day meeting—organized by the agency as a “conservation forum” for hunting and fishing partners—was aimed at strengthening ties to constituencies that were historically responsible for encouraging the first Federal presence in natural resource management.

“You are welcome here,” Service Director Steve Williams told representatives of groups whose interests range from quail hunting to game fishing. “When you think about the really small group of people who mobilized thousands more on behalf of conservation over the past 100 years, I think we do have a chance to make a positive difference here.”

Williams’ upbeat assessment of the gathering was echoed by the National Rifle Association’s conservation director, Susan Lamson, who was not reluctant to apply the word “historic” to an undertaking by a Federal agency seen by some as drifting away in recent years from its traditional hunting and fishing constituencies.

Lamson, an Interior Department official in the Reagan Administration, acknowledged that neither recent Republican nor Democratic administrations have reached out sufficiently to user groups in the sporting community. “Never been done before, even under Reagan,” Lamson said. “And this is not just philosophy we’re discussing. There are outcomes expected here.”

And those outcomes center around five main areas of needed improvement that Williams outlined for the assembled organizations—hunting/angling access and participation, habitat and land management, science in resource management, communication and cooperation, and conservation leadership and policy.

Williams' list was based in large part on a pre-meeting Web-based questionnaire completed by Forum participants.

Day-long small group sessions built around these five themes produced a set of suggested collaborative actions for consideration.

So for Minnesota-based Wildlife Forever's Doug Grann, that means a concerted effort to educate young people about the science of wildlife management, particularly to those without family grounding in outdoor sports. "I don't want to just preach to the choir," says Grann, whose 75,000 members are organized around local hunting and fishing clubs. "I'm also interested in mobilizing volunteers and friends groups to support hunting and fishing that are based on science."

To Indiana's David Sollman, who manages the National Trappers Association, a largely rural and decentralized membership of harvesters of fur-bearing animals, success will come by having a Federal agency open to hearing from an organization that's smaller than many in the conservation world, but much-maligned by segments of the larger public opposed to trapping. "We see a new change in the agency. We've never really had this before," says Sollman. "There's always been a more distant relationship, and now it's 'what can we do to help you?' and 'how can you help us?'"

Among the ideas brainstormed at the winter session were accelerated efforts to expand youth fishing opportunities on refuge system lands, employment of previously-proven models like "joint venture" partnerships to boost user group involvement in habitat and land management, and encouragement of Fish and Wildlife Service employees to hunt, fish, and trap with partner organizations.

Wildlife Management Institute's President, Rollin Sparrowe, called for a possible conservation education "summit conference," saying, "We—the conservation groups—have never networked on all of this stuff. We've never put it all together." The NRA's Lamson advocated better Web-based sources for the public to discover what hunting opportunities exist on refuges, concluding, "the whole public lands system is a big 'mish-mash' for the average hunting public." Others called for the overlay of geographic delineations of Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and hatchery lands with the chapter organization configurations of various hunting and fishing organizations to discover commonalities and untapped opportunities to cooperate.

"I was impressed with the level of commitment by these people, who've been trying to discuss common issues and not argue with each other," said Chris Horsch, a National Conservation Training Center course leader, who acted as facilitator among hunting and fishing interest groups during the Forum. "They are very interested in reestablishing partnerships with the Fish and Wildlife Service."

Horsch's boss, Dr. Todd Jones, NCTC's director of training, echoed these impressions. "People are being open and honest with the issues that are important to conservation. They're finding they've got a lot of shared concerns. When they think about the issues in their groups, you don't hear parochial stuff," Jones said.

Summitry, in the service of conservation or in world politics, is becoming the norm at the West Virginia training center, about 85 miles west of Washington, D.C. In 2001, secretaries of natural resources from 45 states convened at NCTC in the first such meeting of chief executive officers from state departments of natural resources. They were preceded a year earlier when President Bill Clinton hosted a 2-week Middle East summit between Israel and Syria at the center.

In convening the first conservation forum, Director Williams said the approach would be evaluated with an eye toward sponsoring more forums in the future involving other interest groups or specific resource issues.

*David Klinger, Senior Writer-Editor,
Shepherdstown, West Virginia*



Big mussel. Pearly the Mussel goes to schools and educational events from Region 5's Southwest Virginia Field Office in Abingdon. A bubble gun simulates the release of mussel glochidia. The mantle flap on Pearly is movable and can simulate the waving and flapping of the mussel's "lure" that attracts host fish to facilitate glochidial infestation. Many of the federally listed species in R5 are freshwater mussels and fish found in the Upper Tennessee River Basin of Virginia in the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem. The costume was conceived by Leroy Koch, who now works at the Kentucky Field Office. FWS photo: Shane Hanlon.

Take Pride in America



Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton in mid April launched Take Pride in America, a national partnership initiative aimed at increasing volunteer service on America's public lands. Norton unveiled the program at the National Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon.

"By working with volunteers, young and old, we lend our hands to heal our land, one acre at a time. And in so doing, we are celebrating the start of the national, grassroots, bipartisan Take Pride in America program," Secretary Norton said.

Immediately following her address, Norton rolled up her shirt sleeves to participate in a Take Pride project along with Washington Mayor Anthony Williams and actor and rancher- conservationist Rick Schroder. Norton, Williams and Schroder helped school children plant trees and clean up debris along a tributary of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C.'s Watts Branch of Heritage Park.

"Take Pride In America will empower volunteers from every corner of America to restore and improve our parks, refuges, recreation areas and cultural and historical sites. The program inspires citizen stewardship through a bold and innovative public communication campaign. Outstanding volunteer efforts are rewarded with presidential recognition," Norton said at the National Press Club address.

The program works with governors and other partners to launch volunteer conservation projects. Take Pride is part of President George W. Bush's USA Freedom Corps, dedicated to fostering a culture of service to others.

"Take Pride has gained tremendous momentum by enlisting more than 100 charter partners—including major corporations, conservation groups, service organizations, trade associations and a bipartisan coalition of state governors," Norton said.

Governors Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho and Janet Napolitano of Arizona have agreed to be co- chairs of Take Pride's Council of Governors. The Council works with governors to enter into memoranda agreements with the national program. Formal partnerships with state governments allow federal and state land managers to identify volunteer opportunities and to enlist public service commitments from citizens.

TPIA Awards

Norton recognized 10 volunteers, four from the Service, for their outstanding efforts.

Molly Krival

Dr. Molly Krival has contributed more than 7,000 volunteer hours over the past 15 years to the J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR. Dr. Krival leads weekly tours to help visitors appreciate the beauty of the refuge. She volunteers as a mentor to community-based refuge "friends" groups which seek to strengthen relationships with citizens in local communities and encourages public involvement in refuges. Dr. Krival teaches an annual training course on how to work with community-based organizations. She was named the Service's Volunteer of the Year in 1998, and received the service's Special Commendation for Valuable Service in 1996. She is also the recipient of the Sanibel, Florida, Golden Spike Award in recognition of outstanding service to the community. She is a former professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater and administrator of the school's graduate program.

Rosalita Spiller

Rosalita Spiller has contributed more than 8,000 hours as a volunteer over the past 14 years to the Service's Crab Orchard NWR. She has helped thousands of students better understand and explore the rich natural resources within the refuge and the conservation of these resources. Spiller was selected as the 1990 Crab Orchard Volunteer of the Year, was the winner of the refuge's 1991 Beyond the Call of Duty Award and 1992 Woodsman of the World Conservationist of the Year. Spiller and her husband, Thomas, were named the 1997 Conservation Family of the Year.

Steve Noyes

In 1992, Steve Noyes decided to share his love for birds by volunteering to lead bird walks, teaching a "basics of birding" class and supervising a bluebird nest box monitoring program at Maryland's Patuxent Research Refuge. He serves as a volunteer naturalist at the refuge and has contributed more than 10,000 hours of service in the

refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center and North Tract. Noyes photographed much of the flora and fauna on the refuge as well as the day-to-day activities of staff and visitors, managed the Friends of Patuxent's Wildlife Images Bookstore, produced the monthly newsletter for the refuge volunteers and actively recruited others into the volunteer program.

Jim Montgomery

Dr. Jim Montgomery, the 2003 National Wildlife Refuge System volunteer of the year, has invested more than 10,000 volunteer hours in projects at the Service's Bitter Lake NWR since 1988. Dr. Montgomery's efforts have primarily involved research on sandhill cranes, interior least terns and small mammals. Dr. Montgomery is a professor of biology and chair of the Department of Biology of the New Mexico Military Institute. He also serves as a member of the board of directors and treasurer for the Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Norton Announces Reform of Real Estate Appraisal Function

Companies and corporations can help by sponsoring Take Pride In America cleanup days or by committing blocks of volunteer service time to local restoration efforts.

The Interior Department launched www.TakePride.gov to outline program goals and offers ideas and suggestion for citizen, group and corporate involvement.

"We want the expertise of our federal conservation agencies to be more accessible and helpful to partners in state, county and municipal governments and to the countless citizen organizations who want to help," Norton said. "We also want the American people to bring their energy and creativity to help our parks, refuges and public recreation areas. And we want every child in America to realize their great inheritance of scenic beauty and natural bounty. We want them to learn, to cherish, and to take an active role in safeguarding and restoring our lands."

Take Pride will sponsor a national recognition and awards program. Each state forwards its best Take Pride efforts for four annual national awards. The volunteer service certificate is awarded to those who have logged 100 or more hours of service. Federal agencies recognize volunteers who have donated up to 2,000 hours of service. The Secretarial Award recognizes 3,000 hours of service. A special Presidential Award is given to those who have reached 4,000 hours of service.

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced in June that real estate appraisal functions now performed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Bureau of Reclamation will be combined and moved to the Department — a major reform recommended for several decades.

The consolidation of the appraisal functions will be implemented under a plan to be developed by the action team. The action team will be composed of representatives from affected offices within the department, including appraisers and realty specialists. The new organization will have a DOI Chief Appraiser and service center managers. Appraisers will only be reporting to other appraisers. The action team will work out the details on the number and location of the service centers, organizational structure and time tables. The plan will be designed to avoid extensive disruption to employees including job losses, to minimize budget impacts and to address the needs and priorities of agency land acquisition and exchange programs. The department expects to formally establish the new organization by September 30.

"We are working with the Department to advocate policies and procedures that will allow continued quality and timely appraisals that we in the Service expect," said refuge chief William Hartwig.

Norton's action responds to long-standing concerns about the management of appraisal functions as documented for several decades in reports issued by Interior's Inspector General, the General Accounting Office and, more recently, by the Appraisal Foundation and an interagency team under the auspices of Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

"These problems require fundamental reform," said Norton. "In the past, the department tried to resolve them by issuing new directives. Those efforts have not succeeded because they did not address the basic issue of appraiser independence. Our new organization will change the way we do business and will gain the respect of both the public and the dedicated professionals in our appraisal and realty programs."

The department's new appraisal organization will ensure greater appraiser independence, thereby enabling Interior to provide unbiased valuation services that meet recognized professional standards. It will also provide for better coordination and consistency of appraisal guidance, enhanced professional development of appraisers, and greater efficiencies in contract monitoring and management. Consolidation will also allow for a sharing of scarce skills and resources within the entire department.

*Cindy Hoffman, Public Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

These Boots Were Made for Walking. *The National Cattleman's Beef Association's Vice President of Government Affairs, Chandler Keys, and Service Director Steve Williams sign an agreement to establish a voluntary work-exchange program called "Walk A Mile in My Boots". In July, the two organizations formally established this program to improve communications and foster greater understanding. Through the work-exchange venture, ranchers and biologists will take two to 10 days explore, identify and undertake conservation approaches and develop solutions that are mutually beneficial. Any cattle producer or Service employee can apply for the exchange program. The coordinators of the program will help pair cattlemen up in an exchange that is local and relevant to personal interests. During the exchange, cattle ranchers can visit a Service office, refuge, regional office or even travel to the headquarters in Washington, D.C. They will have the opportunity to shadow biologists, managers, educators, conduct outdoor field activities, attend government meetings, and work with other officials. Likewise, Service employees can visit a cattle operation and shadow producers in their daily activities, which could include anything from moving cattle to mending fences. FWS photo: Anita Noguera.*



Preserving Traditional Environmental Knowledge



For the last 40 years Lloyd and Amelia DeWilde have lived a subsistence lifestyle on Koyukuk NWR in a remote cabin about 30 miles from the nearest village, Huslia. FWS photo: Mike Spindler.

In 1995, I was studying white-fronted goose movements and population trends along the Koyukuk River in west-central Alaska. That spring and summer I flew radio-telemetry surveys once a week around the village of Huslia, in the heart of the Koyukuk Refuge. At mid-day I'd stop to refuel, and Steven Attla, a Koyukon Athabascan elder, often met my plane. We quickly became friends, and he invited me up to his house to have coffee. I'd nibble on my lunch, and listen to him talk about growing up in the 1920's and 30's. Soon I began to ask Steven questions about geese during the years before scientific surveys ever came to this part of Alaska. My one-sentence questions would sometimes be answered by a long story, often accompanied by a lesson. These were significant to me, and I knew someday they would become important to others. I wanted to record these stories, but it took me a while to gather the courage to ask permission. When I asked, Steven wanted me to talk to his wife too.



Mike Spindler at KIYU. FWS photo.

Catherine Attla is also a story-teller. She had just completed a book entitled *As My Grandfather Told It*. It grew from her visiting school classes to teach Athabascan language, story-telling and culture. Catherine was looking for a way to share these things with a wider audience. At the same time the regional public radio station, KIYU, was searching for sources of local educational programming. I made a bunch of phone calls to the station and to the Attla's, and soon Catherine came into the studio and taped a two-hour session in which she recounted subsistence experiences from her youth. The following week I visited Steven in his home and recorded four uninterrupted hours of stories. I was beginning to get a picture of what habitat conditions had once been like near Huslia, and of the historic abundance of the Attla's most important food sources, such as moose, caribou, geese, salmon, pike, and whitefish.

I enlisted the help of Theresa Bakker, who was Operations Director of KIYU at the time. She gave me lessons on "audio editing," showing me how to remove each unwanted cough, ringing phone and slamming door with a razor blade cut and a splice of special adhesive tape. Theresa also told me I needed a name and introductory background music for this budding radio series. We settled on a traditional Athabascan fiddle piece named

"Don't let your sweet love die" for the former, but the name proved harder to come up with. I kept looking at Catherine's book, which had a raven on the cover. These birds figure prominently in Athabascan lore, and "Raven's Story" eventually became my name for the series.

Six months after the initial recording, "Raven's Story" hit the airwaves. This first batch included 40 chapters or episodes each lasting five to eleven minutes. KIYU and the Refuge office received numerous favorable phone calls about the new program, but I was still surprised when, a few months later, Theresa entered the series in the annual Alaska Broadcasters Association professional competition. About a year after I first recorded Steven and Catherine Attla, KIYU station manager Bob Sommer called to tell me that "Raven's Story" just won a "Goldie" for "Best Entertainment Series, Small Market Radio in Alaska." Since I felt that Catherine and Steven Attla's story—telling talent had really earned the award, I arranged for a duplicate, which now hangs on the wall in their home.

In the Koyukon Region, people like the Attlas, who are in their 70s and 80s, represent the last generation of Natives who truly lived off the land. Because they once lived in total dependence on subsistence resources, and continued their hunting and fishing activities until late in their lives, they have a valuable perspective of fish, wildlife, and habitat conditions from a time prior to any scientific work in the region. With the passing of each Elder, I was driven to tape as many interviews and stories as I could to preserve such knowledge. In subsequent years, I recorded 15 other important Elders in the villages of Galena, Ruby, Nulato, Kaltag, Huslia, and Hughes. Each had unique stories to tell.

"Raven's Story" accomplished multiple goals for the Service and its partners. For the Refuge, it formally recorded traditional environmental knowledge of the Elders, which has become an increasingly important tool in the management of Alaska's subsistence resources. (The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980



Steven Attla is a renowned story teller who lives in Huslia, along the Koyukuk River. When he is not out hunting and fishing he can be found making wood products such as this dog sled crafted from raw birch logs. FWS photo: Mike Spindler.

required that federal agencies consider local knowledge in their land management practices.) KIYU, and its partner stations, collectively called "Community Radio of Alaska," benefitted from free access to locally produced cultural and educational programming. Galena's Loudon Village Tribal Council recognized the value of these recordings, and became an underwriter of the program. Finally, the University of Alaska Rasmusen Library's Oral History Department became a partner by serving as the final depository for all original recordings.

My appreciation for the Elders' depth of subsistence knowledge increased with each interview, and continued to grow through my editing or production sessions. During these I listened to every story again and again. Each time, it seemed like I gained another bit of understanding. The nuances accompanying a phrase, the emphases and exclamations, and sometimes the sadness, all added to my experience.

I was particularly moved when, in April, 1996, Galena patriarch Sidney Huntington compared the abundance of ducks and geese along the Yukon in the 1920s to more recent times.

"...to have ducks and see them swimming around and flying over, it's a treasure for me because of the past and how many I used to see and how people used to use them. Before that, you used to go back in the woods right at this time of year and it was full of black birds, and warblers and all kinds of birds... I can remember laying on the lake [shores] many times, hunting in the spring and have those birds just sing me to sleep, how nice it was to hear. Now you go in the woods and it's just like death put them away for good... When it comes to ducks I don't kill any more. We don't. I'm doing my share to try to bring them back. I quit in 1955, because the amount of geese was so far below what we used to have that it was just a crime. Gonna make you cry. The air was just full of them before that, and now you go up there and all you see is a measly 15-20. And there were thousands and thousands before the war."

After that recording session I replayed the segment to Sidney, and he fell into tears. It's hard for me to listen to that episode even today.

After I produced Sidney's interview in 1996, Raven's Story began to air on several radio stations across Interior Alaska on the public radio network, and in Anchorage on the public Native station, KNBA. Now, seven years after the Raven's Story project began, I can reflect on some of the changes it has brought about. Perhaps most important, it gave this biologist a completely different way of looking at and understanding the lands

and ecosystems that our agency manages. As a refuge manager, I feel fortunate to be able to make resource decisions based on the best of our modern scientific methods, combined with thoroughly documented traditional knowledge.

Raven's Story has evolved from a one-man mainly volunteer production to a full time project that resides at the radio station. In 2002, the refuge obtained a challenge grant that was matched 2 for 1 by corporate underwriting and KIYU radio funds. The station hired a full-time producer to record and produce new episodes of traditional knowledge for radio. Although Raven's Story has gone professional, I still hope to volunteer a few hours here and there to finish producing interviews with some very special Elders whom I have come to know.

I am thankful for the traditional knowledge and personal experiences that these remarkable men and women have shared with the Service, the radio world, and the public, and I'm convinced that our stewardship of Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR will be greatly enhanced by the melding of their wisdom with modern scientific management.

Samples of Raven's Story can be heard at <www.kiyu.com> or <http://www.uaf.edu/library/oralhistory/jukebox/Ravens_Stories/start.htm>.

*Mike Spindler, Refuge Manager,
Koyukuk/Nowitna NWR.*



Anna Slown was one of hundreds of children at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta who loved 'petting' the Blue Goose while watching a 1,000 balloons ascend. Her father, John Slown and a planner with the Refuge system, donned the costume while her mother, Elizabeth Slown, took the Blue Goose along to the television stations that were covering the Balloon Fiesta.

From Russia, With Dove



Inspiration on the soils of original thought. Standing in front of Robert Frost's cabin, Dr. Nikolai I. Germogenov, Institute of Biology, Yakutsk; interpreter Aleksandr V. Tutkevich; Christopher Brand, USGS National Wildlife Health Center; and Ekaterina V. Shadrina from the Service's Division of International Conservation ponder what it was like to walk in Frost's shoes. FWS photo: Nicholas Throckmorton.

Dressing with field binoculars and pocketed jackets that would make MacGyver envious and telling stories of hunting in the far North, nearly 20 Russian Federation migratory bird specialist descended on Middlebury, Vermont, for the 25th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral

Convention Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment. This was the first time in ten years that the Service and partnering organizations have met with our Russian counterparts to review each other's results and discuss priorities for future cooperation.

The North Pacific Migratory Bird Conference called "Wings Across the Sea," organized by the Service's Division of International Conservation, featured many presentations by American, Russian and Canadian migratory bird conservation organizations and the Embassy of Japan.

"Wildlife knows no borders," said Dr. Herb Raffaele, Chief, Division of International Conservation. "North Atlantic and Arctic migrating birds require a coordinated international management approach."

The result of this conference was a group-generated list for United States—Russia cooperation on bird conservation for 2003–2007. The document touches on increased monitoring, research and management of several shared species; the application of both Russian and American experiences in flyway management; improvement of information exchange, meetings, scientific publications and public awareness materials; and coordination of research activities and data between the Russian Federation, Canada, the Service and U.S. Geological Survey.

On November 19, 1976, the countries signed the Convention between the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment.

This treaty recognizes the need to protect 200 species of birds that have common flyways, breeding, wintering, feeding, or molting areas in the U.S. and Russia and provides a framework for cooperation between scientists and wildlife managers of the two countries. It also encourages research and coordination between national bird banding programs, exchange of scientific information, and the conservation of bird species and their habitats.

As early as 1939 the two countries were corresponding about avian species migrating between them. Even at the height of the Cold War, both nations shared data and conducted joint field work on species such as black brant and Steller's eider. The opening of the Russian Far East following decades of Soviet imposed isolation has provided new opportunities for Russian and American biologists to uncover many of the migratory bird mysteries of the Bering Sea region. This new information is helping both countries develop more effective wildlife management plans.

Nicholas Throckmorton, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.



Birdwatching in Vermont. The Green Mountain National Forest's Robert Frost Interpretative trail provided an excellent opportunity for the group to watch birds and recite Frost's poetry. In the foreground, the Chief of International Conservation, Dr. Herb Raffaele speaks with Judy Jacobs from Migratory Bird Management in Anchorage, Alaska. In the background (left to right), Nikolai D. Poyarkov, Moscow University, Moscow; interpreter Igor G. Kozak; interpreter Aleksandr V. Tutkevich; Ekaterina V. Shadrina, volunteer with the Division; and Christopher Brand, USGS National Wildlife Health Center enjoy their surroundings. FWS photo; Nicholas Throckmorton.

Survey Says: Refuge System Customer Satisfaction

Bureaucratic Challenges Across Two Continents

Condensed interview with Ornithologist Evgeniy V. Syroechkovskiy, Bird Banding Center, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, Russia. Syroechkovskiy has worked on the United States/Russian partnership since its inception in 1974.

My first contact with Americans was made in 1974 in Moscow with professor William Sladen, now retired from Johns Hopkins University, who was part of the U.S.-Russia Environmental Agreement. Our conversation was always interrupted by a high level Russian official. He would say things that were not right. I remember an American said, "We have a lot of one particular species of geese." This species of goose was rare in Russia, but the official interrupted my reply, saying "No, in Russia we have a lot of that species too."

The next summer was the first time an American scientist came to Wrangel Island, a very remote place in northeastern Siberia. We banded geese with neck collars. It was strange after we went home from our mutual work.

There was a big struggle about the word "mutual work." Some officials decided to change the wording to "coordinated work." Mutual work means we could work together, coordinated work means we could, say, write letters, but we had to work separately. Such was the situation until Perestroika.

In 1991, we decided to bring an American survey aircraft to the Chukotka peninsula. It was very difficult to do it in an official way. I had to prepare a lot of papers. The director of our institute had to sign them and send them to the KGB, the Minister of Defense and Aeroflot. They told me the documents were lost, and so on. I resubmitted them and again the same situation. Finally the "officials" found the documents. There were different

comments on each copy; several high level officials wrote quite different opinions on the same text. At last we received all permissions and sent word to the Americans to make preparations for the summer flight.

At the last minute, Defense Minister Yassov forbade the trip. It was a disaster, since the Americans had put a lot of money and preparation into these summer (survey) flights.

The next year Minister Yassov was sent to jail. I went back to Alaska to meet with William Eldridge (Migratory Bird Management, FWS, Anchorage) and Jack Hodges to re-plan the flight. They were not too enthusiastic, but this time I was more skilled, so I went about getting permission in a not-so-official way, and succeeded.

Moscow did not communicate with officials in Eastern Russia. The local Defense people told us that if the American pilot entered Russian airspace, they would shoot him out of the sky. I had to ask a friend to phone the Ministry of Defense the next day for them to send a telegram.

We carried out the first American flight over Russian territory in 1992.

A good example of how our cooperative work benefited migratory birds is we stabilized the number of Russian snow geese. Before our work, this goose was declining dramatically. We learned the factors affecting their breeding and took measures to manage and stabilize their numbers. So the benefit of our work saved, for Russia, one species of geese which would have gone extinct without our cooperation.

Nicholas Throckmorton, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

If the National Wildlife Refuge System were a corporation, you might consider investing in its stock. A recent report commissioned by the Service states that more than 90 percent of customers, those human visitors to wildlife refuges, are "satisfied or very satisfied with their refuge experience." Ultimately, the extensive survey report will help the National Wildlife Refuge System fine tune its public appeal, not for profit but for conservation.

Based on more than 3,000 visitor satisfaction surveys, the report compiled information from 43 refuges throughout the country, each hosting a visitor center, an environmental education program, and an annual visitation of at least 75,000.

"In many ways, we really are trying to 'win investors'," said Service Director Steve Williams. "One of our most valuable conservation resources is people, and to get them interested in the refuge system is to get them invested in conservation."

Survey analysis revealed that almost 90 percent of respondents would likely visit a refuge again within two years. According to the report, visitor satisfaction was "not only consistently high, it was also durable. That is, even visitors who perceived some aspect of a refuge's services or facilities to be inadequate were very likely to express overall satisfaction with regard to their refuge visit."

While there do not appear to be any fundamental areas of concern related to visitor satisfaction, the refuge system will use the survey results to hone, and broaden, its appeal. The survey data analysis cited specific areas that may enhance the visitor experience such as greater law enforcement presence and increased road sign visibility.

Another conclusion reached through analysis is that the National Wildlife Refuge System could benefit by extending its outreach efforts to broader audiences which, according to Williams, is "one of many issues we have already begun addressing." In addition to conserving natural habitat for wildlife, the System is enhancing a variety of wildlife-dependent recreation for the public. Additionally, the Service is expanding environmental education programs to instill

Survey Says: Refuge System Customer Satisfaction (continued)

a conservation ethic that can be passed down from generation to generation. "In our increasingly urbanized world," Williams said, "it is crucial that people have places to experience, and thereby cherish, the outdoors."

The report also helped the System better understand public attitudes towards its fee demonstration program. Most refuges are open to the public at no cost, but about 25 percent charge nominal entrance fees or charge for special activities and additional services. Survey results found that an overwhelming majority of visitors, 94 percent, did not mind the fee. In fact, statistical analysis found that while the fee did not restrict visitation at all, nearly 90 percent of visitors felt strongly that the refuge provided them with an excellent value.

"We are glad to see that so many people are pleased with their refuge experiences," said Williams. "Refuges are places that the public should want to visit, again and again, and the public should feel entitled to tell us how we can keep refuges at the top of their 'to do' list."

The Service developed the survey in accordance with the President's call for citizen-centered government. The Service is planning to use the survey on other refuges to further gauge the visitor experience, and it is also working with other agencies within the Department of Interior to refine the mechanism of visitor surveying on all Department lands.

Future refuge surveys may expand to invite public participation as volunteers in Refuge Friends groups, community-based nonprofit organizations aimed at increasing support for the refuge system. Many of the original surveys analyzed in the current report were distributed and collected by Refuge Friends and volunteers.

Like a no-risk investment with guaranteed returns, the National Wildlife Refuge System will continue to provide a great value as long as the American public remains invested in conserving its natural heritage.

*Ben Ikenson, Public Affairs,
Washington, D.C.*

Greenback Cutthroat Trout Salvage a Success

The summer of 2002 was a hard time for the Colorado State fish, the threatened greenback trout, in the state's high mountain streams. An extreme drought shrank the waters to a fraction of their normal flow; in some cases, waters dried up completely. Concern was rapidly growing for the a greenback population living in Como Creek, west of Boulder. Bruce Rosenlund, the Service's greenback recovery coordinator, describes the Como Creek greenbacks as the keystone historic population, and one that most of the taxonomists agree is a pure strain of greenbacks.

So, on a hot August morning, 27 biologists, ecologists, geneticists, watershed experts, and interns gathered for an emergency fish salvage organized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Service, U.S. Forest Service, the City of Boulder, and the University of Colorado. Teams formed to use backpack shockers and five-gallon fish-hauling buckets.

Once electro-shocking began, one or two greenbacks at a time would roll over and follow the anode out from the undercuts and root balls. Their white undersides made them easy to spot in the clear water but netting them out of the shadows was a test of reflexes. The fish would only stay paralyzed for a second or two before the electronic pulse would turn off, letting them turn back over, their olive green backs and scattered black spots blending perfectly with the green algae and the shadows. Once netted, fish were placed in the buckets containing a gallon or two of creek water to avoid a sudden temperature or chemical changes



Tom Doolittle and Dave Parisein of the Bad River NRD and Ashland FRO biologist Ted Koehler checking rail traps. *The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Wildlife Department has completed the first year of a 3 year study to assess sora and Virginia and yellow rail populations in the wild rice dominated wetlands of the Kakagon/Bad River wetland complex in*

Wisconsin. Playback surveys and mark recapture of rails were conducted during the 2002 migration periods and breeding season. The cooperative project was developed and led by the tribe in partnership with Service's Great Lakes Coastal Program, and Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO), as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Circle of Flight Program. Ted Koehler, Ashland Fishery Resources Office, Ashland, Wisconsin. Ashland Daily Press photo: Steve Tomasko.

U.S. Representative Scott McInnis Honors Monte Vista NWR for a Half-Century of Contributions to Wildlife Conservation

that could further stress the fish. Crew members designated as the runners then hiked the bucket containing a fish or two to the 'processing center.' After five hours, more than 300, three-to-nine inch fish were collected.

Less than a week later, it was time to move the fish to their refugia in a fishless reservoir in the mountains above Denver. Five gallons of water and 10–15 fish were placed in coolers strapped onto the back of each runner. It didn't take long to figure out that climbing up a steep incline while getting used to the sloshing and shifting weight of the pack wasn't going to be a cake walk.

Passing three lakes, we at last arrived at our destination. After stripping off the packs and opening the coolers, we were relieved that not one fish had perished from what must have been a very rough ride. We carried the coolers down to the rocky shore and released the fish slowly into the clear cool waters. The fish seemed to orient themselves by scouting the shoreline before finally venturing into deeper water. Then they discovered the smorgasbord of insects resting on the surface and they started to feed.

Not one fish had been lost that day. By the time the afternoon thunderstorms started rolling over the peaks it was time to head for home. Although tired, wet and hungry, we all knew the work had been worth it. A whole population of creatures that were practically doomed to die had just been saved.

Jeff Peterson, Ecological Services Field Office, Lakewood, Colorado

In recognition of 50 years of wildlife conservation efforts, U.S. Representative Scott McInnis, of Colorado's Third Congressional District, entered an official tribute to Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge into the Congressional Record on October 21, 2002. The tribute recognizes the important contributions Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge has made to migratory bird conservation by providing outstanding nesting and migration habitat for thousands of ducks, geese, cranes and other water birds in Colorado's San Luis Valley, as well as high-quality hunting, education and wildlife viewing opportunities for refuge visitors.

"We are truly honored to be part of this 50-year legacy of working with a wonderful community to provide important habitat for several populations of migratory birds," said Michael Blenden, Refuge Manager of the Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge Complex. "It is also very gratifying to have this national wildlife refuge recognized by Representative McInnis and the United States Congress," he added.

"The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge stands as a model of 50 years of cooperation between the public's many interests, integrating the refuge seamlessly into the agricultural community around it. The refuge and its partners have shown great dedication to conserving wildlife habitat and I am honored to recognize them for all they have accomplished," said Representative McInnis.

"The Service greatly appreciates Representative McInnis' support for, and recognition of, Monte Vista Refuge and its long and successful conservation history. We also applaud all of the public and private partners in the San Luis Valley who have worked so hard over the past 50 years to make Monte Vista such an outstanding example of the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Service Regional Director Ralph Morgenweck.

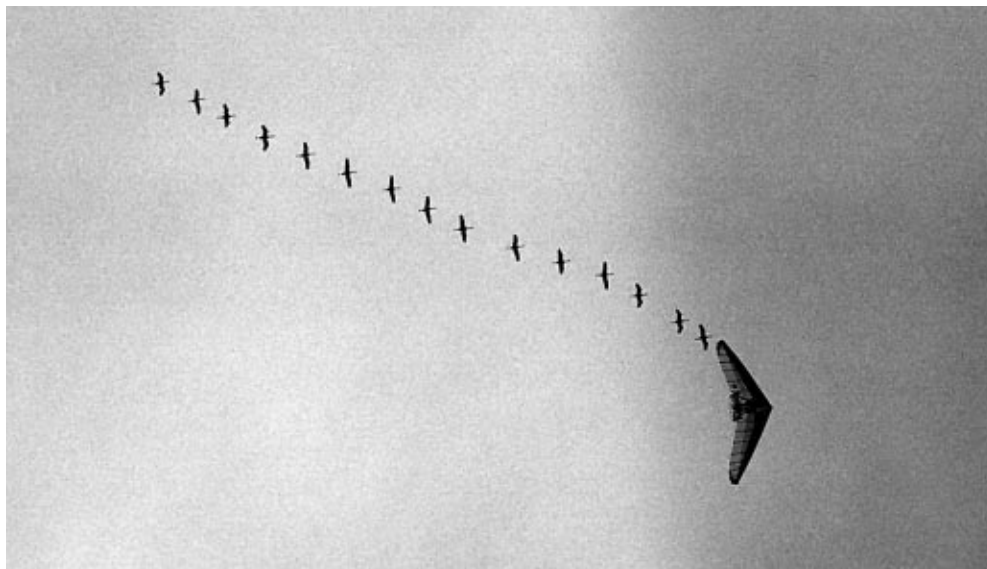
Representative McInnis presented this tribute in November at a short ceremony held at the Wildlife Observation trailhead, located about 200 yards east of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Headquarters.

Mike Blenden, Refuge Manager, Alamosa NWR

Honorable Scott McInnis of Colorado, House of Representatives, November 12, 2002

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to the first National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado. The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, established in the San Luis Valley, is an example of how much Coloradans value their lands and wildlife. As the refuge celebrates its golden anniversary, it is my honor to pay tribute to it before this body of Congress and this nation.

Ultra Light-Led Endangered Whooping Cranes Reach Home



Heading north. *These 15 whooping cranes fly over a crowd of 200 at Crystal River mall Saturday Nov 30, 2002. FWS photo: Tom MacKenzie.*

Eleven juvenile whooping cranes from the ultralight-led migration “Class of 2002” returned to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin on April 13, completing a 13-day, 1,200-mile unassisted return migration from their winter home at Florida’s Chassahowitzka NWR. Traveling with the young birds as they winged their way north was hatch year ’01 crane #5.

Two remaining 2002 birds, #9 and #14, took more circuitous routes north. Crane #14 was last seen in central Illinois in mid-May, while #9 flew east of the expected migration route and had to be transported by airplane back to Wisconsin from West Virginia.

The rest of the birds from the Class of ’01 reached Wisconsin during late March and early April.

Following four ultralight aircraft flown by Operation Migration, Inc., the sixteen whooping cranes of the Class of 2002 left Necedah on October 13, 2002, reaching their winter home at Chassahowitzka on December 1 after a 49-day migration.

Prior to their historic landing, they made a rare public appearance flying over a welcoming crowd of about 200 supporters at the Crystal River mall in Crystal River, Florida.

International Crane Foundation biologists monitored the cranes’ winter behavior and tracked them on their spring migration north. “It is truly a great day for wildlife,” said Sam D. Hamilton, the Service’s Southeast Regional Director, as the cranes descended on Florida last December. “The Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to be a partner in this multi-year reintroduction project with our state and nonprofit partners, without whom, this simply would not have happened.”

These sixteen whooping cranes are the second generation of birds to make the migration from Wisconsin to Florida and back again. One crane—injured on the first day of the fall migration when the weather took a turn for the worse and caused a mid-air collision, had to be euthanized after it did not respond to 12 days of treatment by veterinarians at the International Crane Foundation.

In 2001, seven of the eight whooping cranes that began the pilot fall migration made it to Florida safely. Five of these seven birds survived the winter and made an unassisted spring migration back to Wisconsin in 2002.

All five reached Chassahowitzka NWR unassisted last fall. “We’re part of the whole team and were proud of the bunch,” said Joe Duff, team leader and co-founder of Operation Migration. “What I’m most amazed at is the resiliency of these birds that have shown such tenacity. We flew today with more birds than even existed in the early forties. That’s a comeback that has to keep going.”

The reintroduction is part of a recovery effort for the highly imperiled species, which was on the verge of extinction in the 1940s and today numbers only about 260 birds in the wild. The continent’s only other migratory population of whooping cranes winters at Aransas NWR on the Texas Gulf Coast. A non-migrating flock of about 100 cranes remain year-round in central Florida as part of an ongoing study led by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The class of 2002 found major improvements in their habitat when they arrived at Chassahowitzka in December. Volunteers, contractors and refuge employees had been busy since the spring, expanding their protective pen from 1½ to 4 acres and created a unique habitat just for the whooping cranes.

“We built up an existing oyster reef for night roosting in the water with 90 tons of natural shell using 300 helicopter loads,” said Chassahowitzka manager Jim Kraus. “We’ve already spotted whooping crane tracks on the reef, which has already silted in by the tides.”



Surrogate parent. John Christian from Region 3, dressed in a whooping crane suit, talks to a crowd of welcoming well-wishers at the arrival celebration at Crystal River mall, Florida last November. FWS photo: Tom MacKenzie.

In 1998, an international coalition of state and federal governments and nonprofit organizations formed the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) to spearhead the recovery initiative for the whooping crane, a federally listed endangered species. More than 35 private landowners have volunteered their property as stopover sites for the cranes and migration team. A temporary pen keeps the cranes safe from predators between each morning's flight, and all who interact with the cranes wear costumes to mask their human form and use adult crane puppet heads to mimic adult bird behaviors. WCEP's goal is to establish a migrating flock of at least 125 birds including 25 adult breeding pairs, restoring the species to eastern North America.

Founding members of WCEP include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Crane Foundation, the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team, Operation Migration, Inc., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and National Wildlife Health Center and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Many other flyway states, provinces, private individuals and conservation groups have joined forces with and support WCEP by donating resources, funding and personnel.

*Tom MacKenzie, External Affairs,
Atlanta, Georgia*

*Rachel Levin, External Affairs,
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Where Falcons Fly Free. (left to right) Brigadier General Ronald S. Coleman, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics — Headquarters Marine Corps; Deputy Regional Director Geoffrey Haskett, refuge Manager Roger DiRosa; and Brigadier General (Select) Phillip M. Breedlove, Commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The United States Marine Corps and Air Force honored the Service's Southwest Region with a poster presentation recently at the annual Sonoran Shindig Wildlife Festival — a Celebration of the Desert in Ajo, Arizona. Deputy Regional Director Geoffrey Haskett accepted a poster emblazoned with the words, "Where Falcons Fly Free." The poster honors the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, in particular Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge System personnel for their partnership with the Department of Defense in the resource management of the Sonoran Desert Ecosystem and the Service's diligence in the recovery of the peregrine falcon. Following World War II, engineers and scientists studied the aerodynamics of the peregrine resulting in the redesign of fighter jet wings to conform to those of the falcon's. While fighters can fly at mach speeds, current research reveals that peregrines can dive at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour. Victoria M. Fox, Public Affairs, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



On the Eve of the Centennial: A Celebration of Partnerships

As the sun set on the first century of conservation, Service partners from across the country joined together to celebrate the partnerships that have sustained the National Wildlife Refuge System. Guests strolled through the lush tropical vegetation of Florida's McKee Botanical Gardens, reflecting on 100 years of working together to conserve and protect lands for fish and wildlife.

The reception was hosted by The Conservation Fund and sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Ed Stone and Associates, and Anheuser-Busch Companies and Natural Light. Guests included many of the refuge system's strongest advocates, including members of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), the Audubon Society, and the Centennial Commission. Local partners that have helped to protect and restore America's first refuge at Pelican Island were also honored guests.

"It is with great pride that The Conservation Fund joins the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, its extraordinary team and our committed partners to celebrate a century of conservation," said event host Larry Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund. "Together we are preserving America's wildlife habitat and outdoor heritage as a permanent land and water legacy for future generations."

During the event, Secretary Gale Norton spoke about the important contributions that partners have made to the refuge system, including CARE, Friends group and volunteers, state wildlife agencies, local governments and communities, and the many nonprofit organizations that support refuges.

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Craig Manson and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams presented a special Centennial Partnership Award to a group of companies that have collectively donated more than \$800,000 in funding and millions of dollars of in-kind support to the National Wildlife Refuge System in honor of the Centennial. Receiving an award were ConocoPhillips, Southern Company, Eagle Optics, Wild Birds Unlimited, The Walt Disney Company, Bass Pro Shops, Caterpillar Corporation, and the United States Postal Service.

The Conservation Fund also gave special recognition to the Anheuser-Busch Corporation. Virginia Busch, conservation ambassador of Anheuser-Busch, announced a new \$100,000 gift to The Conservation Fund, which will launch the Centennial Conservation Challenge. This initiative is part of the Fund's goal to help protect a total of 1 million acres of national wildlife refuge lands in celebration of the centennial. To date, The Conservation Fund has protected nearly 900,000 acres in national wildlife refuges across the country. Thanks in part to financial support from Anheuser-Busch, The Conservation Fund was able to acquire on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service one of the last critical pieces of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

As they marked the end of the first century of conservation, both long-time supporters and new-found refuge friends marveled at the successes of the world's greatest network of conservation lands—and planted the seeds for a second century of conservation success.

Kyla Hastie, Southeastern Centennial Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia

Pelican Island Celebration

The celebration started early on Friday, March 14, 2003 at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. I witnessed the sunrise on a new century of conservation bathe the refuge in brilliant color and light. The rookery on Pelican Island awoke and, one by one, birds began embarking on their daily feeding forays. White pelicans, wood storks, and cormorants flocked to the nearby ponds, working in apparent unison to school fish to each other.

Meanwhile, great and snowy egrets pranced about the edges of the ponds to stake their own fishing spots, as their long, delicate plumes ruffled in the breeze. Squadrons of pelicans glided overhead in formation as pairs of mottled ducks and teal winged by.

Soon the buzz of human activity began as coordinators and volunteers arrived. We were soon joined by members of the media, Secretary Norton, Assistant Secretary Manson, Director Williams, and a small group of VIPs.

As the refuge manager for Pelican Island, I welcomed all of the guests and introduced them to the history of Pelican Island. We were fortunate to have some very special guests to help us celebrate the centennial of the first refuge, including descendants of Paul Kroegel, the first refuge manager; and Joe Michael, who fought to save the refuge from dredge and fill development in the early 1960's. We acknowledged the Kroegel and Michael families during the rededication of the refuge as an historic landmark by Secretary Norton by unveiling the restored plaque that Joe Michael helped dedicate 40 years prior. Secretary Norton also unveiled a plaque of the Pelican Island NWR commemorative stamp with Pat Donahoe of the US Postal Service, who gave the plaque to the Refuge. Also participating in the dedication were Assistant Secretary Manson and Director Williams.

Afterwards, I accompanied the Secretary and her guests on a tour of the refuge. I explained how all of the restoration and public improvements were made possible through the generous contribution of our many partners.

Once we reached the foot of the Centennial Trail Boardwalk, we were unexpectedly greeted by a chorus of "Happy Birthday" by the children from the Pelican Island Elementary School ECO-Troop. The students were planting native trees near the boardwalk and the Secretary joined them to finish the last ones. We thanked all of the partners for their contributions and then invited Secretary Norton, Assistant Secretary Mason, Director Williams, Congressman Weldon, and Pat Donahoe of the US Postal Service to help install the final planks of the boardwalk. The Secretary, assisted by the schoolchildren, then cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Centennial Trail Boardwalk. This dedication culminated decades of planning the first public use facilities on the refuge in 100 years.

After the ribbon-cutting, I escorted the Secretary along the boardwalk and looked at all the routed planks with the name and establishment year of each refuge installed in reverse chronological order. It was as if walking back in time, conjuring up images of the special places the planks represent and the special people who worked there. Along the way also were the interpretive panels that relate the story of the growth of the refuge system, ending at the observation tower with a fantastic view of where it all started, Pelican Island.

Once the tour was complete, the guests joined a couple of thousand people that were already at Riverview Park for the big centennial celebration. Television celebrity and commission member Jack Hanna hosted the event, educating and entertaining the audience with animals such as a cougar, bear, falcons and hawks. Seven-year-old Jernie Talles belted out a rousing rendition of our National Anthem as "Challenger" the bald eagle flew over the crowd. The multi-faceted celebration included performances by "President Teddy Roosevelt," Disney's Voices of Liberty®, and speeches by historian Edmund Morris, Roy Disney, Secretary Norton and Director Williams. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of a huge reproduction of the Pelican Island Commemorative Stamp by Pat Donahoe of the US Postal Service. After the event,

hundreds of people flocked to the US Postal Service tent to purchase first day of issue stamps and cachets with pictures of Pelican Island. The cachets were sold out within an hour!

The participation of 150 Service employees that joined our speakers on stage for the event made an impressive visual backdrop for the speakers in their dress uniforms. They also made an impression individually, along with the many Southeast Region employees and volunteers as they staffed booths representing the diverse refuges and programs that make up the Service. Our guests got a virtual tour of the Refuge System from the Arctic and Becharof refuges in Alaska, to Florida's refuges.

The centennial celebration was capped off with an evening concert by Arlo Guthrie and fireworks over the Indian River Lagoon, sponsored by the local chamber of commerce and the City of Sebastian. Over the weekend people got the chance to attend the two-day Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, co-sponsored by our friends group the Pelican

Island Preservation Society. All of the Centennial events drew up to 40,000 people.

The Centennial was an opportunity for many active and retired Service employees to reminisce on careers that helped make the refuge system a success story. The Centennial for me was bittersweet for I learned on that day that my very first supervisor had just passed away after a long battle with cancer. Bruce Williams was the maintenance foreman at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and not only contributed to the success of the endangered species propagation program for whooping cranes and many other species, but mentored many current Service employees who are applying the values he demonstrated over his career. I think Bruce would have been proud that four of his former employees were on hand at Pelican Island this day to make this milestone event a huge success and fitting tribute to all.

Paul Tritaik, Refuge Manager, Pelican Island NWR/Archie Carr NWR



Mountain-Prairie Region quilt destroyed.

The Mountain-Prairie Region Centennial quilt was destroyed on February 21, 2003, in a fire at a quilt shop in Idaho Springs, Colorado, where it was being completed. The quilt was a collective effort of many people across the region, both inside and outside of the Service. Fifty field stations contributed squares for the final product. The quilt was going to be unveiled in Denver during the Centennial celebration on March 14th at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and spend the next several years traveling throughout the region. Although this loss was felt heavily by everyone in the Mountain-Prairie Region Refuges Program, new plans have been made to recreate the quilt and unveil it during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. Many thanks to the enthusiastic and creative people who helped and continue to help on this project. Deserai Anderson-Utley; External Affairs; Denver, Colorado. FWS photo.

A Special Party at a Special Place



Untrampled by people. *Creedman Coulee NWR is relatively unknown to people, but the birds know it is there. FWS photo: Fritz Prellwitz.*

On the day of the Refuge Centennial, I imagined the great events on other refuges across this great nation. Politicians, dignitaries, non-governmental organizations, school groups and the public would join refuge employees in celebrating the great work of President Theodore Roosevelt. Cakes would be eaten, beverages consumed, news stories taped, and time capsules buried. I was the only one at Creedman Coulee NWR, a satellite of Bowdoin NWR, in far northern Montana. I ate a cupcake, took a few photos, reflected on the place, and then returned 130 miles to headquarters to participate in one of those “other celebrations.”

Creedman Coulee NWR is an easement Refuge established in 1941 as “a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.” The Service owns only 80 acres here, with the remaining 2,648 acres under perpetual easement. The easement applies primarily to management of the water in Creedman Reservoir. No one in 1941 thought the prairie would ever change so no further protection was designated. The prairie did change. Much of the native prairie has been plowed and grain stubble now rests beneath today’s blanket of snow.

A few people visit this place for a few days in the spring for seeding, and again in late summer for harvest, and maybe an occasional cowboy checks his cows during summer. I am the only refuge employee who has spent any time here in the past 15 years, and on the Centennial it was just me, a few pronghorns and horned larks, and a coyote or two. I listened to the tinkling flute music of the larks and the whistling of a Richardson’s ground squirrel which I could not see as it awakened from its winter nap and remained hidden in its burrow. It knew I was here though. Maybe it wanted the party for itself. I wondered what this Refuge will be like in the next hundred years, and I thought about what it had been like before it was a refuge.

A hundred years ago, “Greenman” Coulee (see sidebar) was a live drainage combining with Lodge Creek, and moving water from a watershed in both northern Montana and southern Canada towards the Milk River at Chinook. Flows were significant because of a lack of upstream water developments, especially during spring runoff. Bison bones were still scattered around on the prairie.

This was, and is, harsh land where early homesteaders often failed. Most moved on. “Greenman” Coulee carried a lot of water and early settlers tried to tame that water to irrigate crops and water livestock. The first Water Right Record, a “Notice of Appropriation” for Greenman Coulee, was filed on 18 October 1915, shortly after the construction of the first dam either in 1903 or 1908. The ducks quickly found it.

A Refuge with the Wrong Name?

In 1941, the same year that Creedman Coulee NWR was established, a fencing agreement recorded the area as “Greedman” Coulee, and then the confusion on the name began. Many of the easements had been purchased by this time, and they referred to the drainage as either Greenman Coulee or Greedman Coulee. Bowdoin Refuge Manager B.M. Hazeltine wrote a memo in 1941 explaining that the Executive Order had misnamed the Refuge, and that the proper name should be Greedman Coulee NWR. The Washington Office responded that the name would remain Creedman Coulee NWR because of the official published maps. Was it a typo, or was it as some historians in the Hill County Library suspect, just poor penmanship on the part of a census taker?

I remembered a visit to the refuge in November 1999. Trips to Creedman in mid November are always a bit scary. The closest ranch buildings are abandoned during the cold season. Canada is only two miles away, and the next closest neighbors are somewhere up there. I had just left Creedman Reservoir when I noticed dark clouds to the north in Canada. They were moving! Soon the sky above Creedman Reservoir was darkened even more by over 3,000 mallards, and more clouds of ducks were still coming from Canada as far as I could see. As I reflected back on that great spectacle, I thought of all the dignitaries and politicians celebrating at other refuges today. They don’t know this place exists. But the birds do.

Dwain M. “Fritz” Prellwitz, Wildlife Biologist, Creedman “Greenman” Coulee NWR, Montana

Refuge Boardwalk a Trail into History

The Nation's first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island NWR in Sebastian, Florida, celebrated the Centennial by premiering the Centennial Trail, which includes a boardwalk and an observation tower. From the winding boardwalk, visitors get a scenic view of the Indian River and lush tropical foliage. From the 18-foot observation tower, they see a panoramic view of Pelican Island.

Planks along the boardwalk are engraved with the blue goose, symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the name of each of the 540 refuges, its state, and the date it was established. Visitors begin their walk in 2002, at the nation's newest refuge, Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama. A stroll along the boardwalk will take them back through the establishment of each national wildlife refuge until they reach the plank for Pelican Island, where they will step out on to the observation tower to view the island itself.

Work on the Centennial Trail was completed thanks to Service employees from around the country. A wide array of Service staff, including carpenters, maintenance workers, equipment operators, and biologists, helped raise this monument to the refuge system. Two groups of workers came from Puerto Rico, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Texas, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, and Arizona, as well as from around the Southeast.

"My wife and I have been retired for five years," said Herschel Couch, who coordinated construction efforts on this project. "We have volunteered at refuges around the country. I have worked at construction all my life, and I took it as a real honor that they chose me to work as a paid coordinator for this high profile project."

"Both groups of crews were fantastic. Several workers brought equipment from their refuges and worked up to 76 hours a week in the hot sun. The crews worked with so much attention to detail," concluded Couch.

According to Refuge Ranger Joanna Taylor, "We are giving people an opportunity to see something that is part of their wildlife heritage and explains why we are where we are today."



Interpretive panels were placed along the boardwalk's handrails that highlight significant growth stories of the refuge system. In addition, some of the engraved planks are placed in special groupings to signify these growth stories. Thirty planks in the middle of the boardwalk honor North Dakota Refuges started during the Dust Bowl era. Twenty-five planks near the observation tower represent the refuges established by President Roosevelt during his eight-year presidency that are still a part of the refuge system. Another grouping, this one closer to the base, emphasizes the Alaska Refuges which have added millions of acres to the system. A single

Hard at work. *Fernando Ramos (right) and Mariano Rodriguez-Flores, both from the Caribbean NWR, place planks in the boardwalk. FWS photo: Tom Bender.*

plank and interpretive panel, placed along the establishment time line represents the addition of Wetland Management Districts to the refuge system in 1966.

"There are so many stories to tell about our National Wildlife Refuge System. The Centennial Trail boardwalk and tower depict the history and enormity of the refuge system that stretches across the nation into Alaska and the U.S. Provinces," said Taylor.

Tom Prusa, a long-time refuge manager and current Assistant Refuge Supervisor for Florida, was moved by his visit to the Centennial Trail. "It was really an emotional experience, walking back through time and seeing so many refuges that I've worked on laid out there in front of me. We've created something that will make us all proud as we prepare for the second century of conservation."

Elsie Davis, External Affairs, Atlanta, Georgia

Pelican Island Celebrates 100th Birthday with the Community

Three days of events in Indian River County, Florida marked just the halfway point of events surrounding the National Centennial Celebration of Pelican Island and the refuge system.

To follow would be two more days of the most attended Centennial event, the 11th Annual Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, coordinated by the Pelican Island Preservation Society and Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The festivities attracted an estimated 40,000 celebrants and included feature wildlife presentations by Jack Hanna, star of Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures and Jim Fowler, star of Wild Kingdom.

"This year's event accomplished more than we ever dreamed of in educating the public about the National Wildlife Refuge System," said Joanna Taylor of Pelican Island NWR. More than sixty Service and refuge friends group exhibits were set up and attended by staff from across the country. "You could feel a overwhelming sense of shared pride between the community and the Service at the event. It was a birthday like no other," said Taylor.

Other festival activities included boat and kayak tours to view the Pelican Island rookery, kid's activities, live music, seminars, over one hundred local environmental and arts and crafts exhibits, and free birthday cake. The festival was held at Sebastian's Riverview Park.

Major Outdoor Retailer Teams with Service to Support Refuge System Centennial



Done Deal. Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris and Service Director Steve Williams team up for refuges' Centennial.

"This agreement with the Service was forged out of mutual concern for conserving our nation's fantastic abundance of wildlife and outdoor recreation. We are a company that believes in conservation and appreciates the wonderful opportunities the National Wildlife Refuge System offers to hunt, fish, birdwatch, or participate in other activities that are so important to the outdoor-loving public," said Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris. In April, Morris was appointed by Interior Secretary Gale Norton to serve on the National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commission, a 19-member group established by Congress to help the Service rally public support for the refuge system during the centennial year.

Bass Pro Shops is helping the Service and the American people realize Teddy Roosevelt's century-old dream for wildlife.

In an October ceremony at the Bass Pro Shops headquarters in Springfield, MO, the Service and the outdoor retailer agreed to work together to tell the story of one of America's best-kept secrets: the National Wildlife Refuge System. The System—the world's most unique array of wildlife lands—celebrated its centennial on March 14, 2003. That was the day 100 years ago that President Teddy Roosevelt established tiny Pelican Island in Florida's Indian River as the nation's first national wildlife refuge.

Since then, the system has grown to 94 million acres and there are now 540 wildlife refuges with at least one within a one-hour drive of most major cities.

The agreement calls for the Service and Bass Pro Shops to work cooperatively in developing information materials for use before and during the centennial year. These materials will be available for use in Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World magazine, radio and television shows, its internet site, its catalogue and advertising supplements, and in its 16 stores, many of which are located near wildlife refuges.

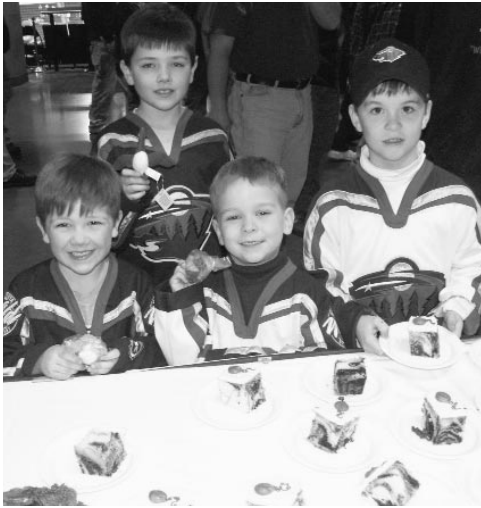
"If Teddy Roosevelt were with us today, I think he would be flashing that famous, signature grin," said Service Director Steve Williams, who co-signed the agreement with Morris. "This partnership with Bass Pro Shops offers a unique opportunity to tell a great story about our national commitment to wildlife conservation and I can't think of a better partner to spread the word than Bass Pro Shops," Williams said.

Phil Million, External Affairs, Arlington, Virginia

Disney Scholarship Donation. Roy E. Disney, vice chairman of The Walt Disney Company, presented a \$100,000 gift to establish a scholarship program to encourage graduate students in conservation and environmental education. The gift creates "The Centennial Commission Scholarship Fund for Conservation" through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The announcement is part of an overall effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Walt Disney Company to work together to bring attention to the country's National Wildlife Refuge System. (left to right) Beth Stevens, VP-Disney's Animal Kingdom; Kym Murphy, Sr. VP, Environmental Policy-The Walt Disney Company; Roy E. Disney, Vice Chairman-The Walt Disney Board of Directors; Gale Norton, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior; Bill Horn, Chairman, NWRs Centennial Commission; Sonya Deese-Byrnes, General Manager-Disney Vacation Clubs; Bill Warren, VP Public Affairs; Judge Craig Manson, Assistant Interior Secretary; Renae Brock, General Manager-Disney's Vero Beach Resort.



A "Wild Night at the Wild"



Truly Wild. Young hockey fans show off their newly acquired blue goose beanies at the Refuge Centennial display at Xcel Energy Center at St. Paul, Minnesota. FWS photo.

Start with more than 18,000 people geared up for a special hometown event. Add lots of special birthday cake, blue goose beanie babies, spectacular wildlife videos, eager Service employees and dedicated volunteers and you have the elements of Region 3's exceptional 100th birthday bash for the National Wildlife Refuge System, March 14, 2003, the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Region 3's regional office partnered with the NHL's Minnesota Wild and others to celebrate a "Wildlife Night at the Wild" during the Wild's home game against the Nashville Predators. Eighty-five Service employees, special guests and conservation partners were among the sellout crowd of 18,560 people attending the event. The "Wild" event was one of numerous Centennial events in the region that attracted thousands of visitors, students, partners, members of Congress, and news media.

"The refuge system scored a "hat trick" during this event," said Refuge Area Supervisor Jim Leach, borrowing a hockey term for three goals scored in a game by a single player. "We celebrated the 100th birthday of the refuge system, we promoted our refuges and wetland management

districts to thousands of outdoors-oriented Minnesotans, and we were able to join with our partners and other VIPs in a fun, social setting to talk conservation."

The Service's conservation partners figured prominently in the event. More than 3,000 blue goose beanie babies—each tagged with a 4 x 6-inch card containing a Refuge Centennial message and a map showing locations of refuges in Minnesota—were distributed by Service employees and volunteers to youngsters 12 and under as they entered the arena. The wildly popular beanies were purchased by Pheasants Forever for the event. Media Source, the blue goose beanie vendor, picked up the tab for express air freight in order to have the promotional items on hand before March 14.

"Puddles," the blue goose mascot, waddled through the crowd, distributing outreach materials, blue goose beanies and providing hugs, "high-fives" and a few photo ops for adults and kids alike. More than 1,000 pieces of specially decorated Centennial birthday cake were served to visitors to the Refuge Centennial display. Cakes were provided at no charge via the Minnesota Bakers Association and Rainbow Foods, a local grocery chain. Refuge system video clips and Centennial PSAs were broadcast on the arena's giant video screen during the evening.

The team's demographic research shows their fan base is dominated by outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and income brackets. This finding influenced the naming of the NHL franchise (Minnesota Wild) and its logo when team was formed in 1999. The Wild made 63 seats available (at cost) to Service employees, plus donated 10 VIP seats in the owners suite. Acting Regional Director Marvin Moriarty and Jim Leach joined with partners and legislative representatives in the Wild owner's suite before and during the game. The list of VIPs included Ron Nargang, state director, The Nature Conservancy; Roger Pederson, state director, Ducks Unlimited and Joe Duggan, vice president, Pheasants Forever; Tim Bremicker, chief, Wildlife Division, Minnesota Department Natural Resources; Jim Gelbmann, state director of Senator Mark Dayton; Patrick Connolly, regional representative of Senator Norm Coleman; Chris Swedzinski, staff representative of Congressman Mark Kennedy; Steve Messick, staff representative for Congressman John Kline.

And, by the way, the Wild beat the Predators, 3-1.

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Refuge LE helps commemorate the Centennial.

To recognize a centennial of conservation on national wildlife refuges, all refuge law enforcement officers will wear this special commemorative badge in lieu of their regular uniform shirt badge through the end of 2003. FWS photo.

Blue Goose Travels the Iditarod Trail

Just after Christmas, I received a phone call from Barry Whitehill, who had worked with Iditarod dog musher Aliy Zirkle at Kanuti NWR years ago.

“Wouldn’t it be neat,” he said, “if Aliy would let us sponsor her and she carried the Centennial message along the Iditarod trail?”

Barry called Zirkle and she was more than willing. Phone calls to the Alaska Natural History Association and vendors resulted in an anorak, dog blankets, sled banner and mittens—all sporting the blue goose!

Zirkle, a former Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge employee, came to Alaska to work for the Service in the mid 1990’s. She spent four years working as a biologist for the refuge, stationed in Bettles (population 35), Alaska. It was there she began running dogs. She started with six dogs, which she used to travel to local villages and for trips into the nearby Brooks Range. When she left Bettles and the Service, she moved to Two Rivers, outside of Fairbanks, and began to get serious about racing sled dogs. Today, she and her sister, Kaz, run Skunk’s Place Kennel with almost 50 dogs. Zirkle attracted worldwide attention in 2000 when she became the first woman to win the “Yukon Quest” race from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory to Fairbanks.

It was an unseasonably warm day March 1, 2003 in Anchorage as 65 dog teams lined up for the Ceremonial Start of Alaska’s Great Race. This annual, long distance race, travels about 1,100 miles from Anchorage to Nome on normal years. But this year was not normal. Warm temperatures south of the Alaska Range had forced the race to be rerouted and it would officially start in Fairbanks on March 3, adding 100 miles to the total distance. Zirkle, along with her sister and parents, were joined by a hardy group of Service employees that morning in Anchorage. Two days later another group of Service employees wished her well at the official start in Fairbanks.



Going to race those miles to Nome. Aliy Zirkle with Alaska Regional Director Dave Allen. FWS photo: Donna Dewhurst.

Service employees in Alaska and across the country began following her progress along the trail. She was in the top 10 for several days, traveling through Nenana and Tanana. Stopping briefly in Galena, she was greeted by the staff of Koyukuk and Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges. After ten days, seventeen minutes and seventeen seconds on the trail, Zirkle was 14th to cross the finish line in Nome—on March 14, 2003 at 3:17 a.m.

Meeting her that Centennial morning in Nome was Service Special Agent, Mike Wade, who had been asked less than 24 hours before to greet her and snap some photos. Region 7 and the Alaska Natural History Association are proud to have sponsored Aliy Zirkle and are even prouder that she carried the blue goose so many miles.

Cathy Rezabeck, External Affairs, Anchorage, Alaska

Centennial Caravan Migrates Through Pacific Region

Driving a fleet of vehicles brightly decorated with wildlife art, a dozen members of the Friends of Seal Beach NWR are celebrating the Refuge System centennial in a novel way.

Forming a caravan of six vehicles, the volunteers traveled to coastal and interior refuges in California, Oregon and Washington on a quest to follow the Pacific Flyway and highlight the interconnectedness of refuges as a system of lands protected for wildlife.

The Centennial Caravan was launched on March 14, 2003, in a ceremony on Seal Beach NWR, which is within the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Facility in California. Rear Admiral Jose Betancourt of Navy Southwest Region led a delegation of Navy partners at the event. David Markovitz, a Theodore Roosevelt impersonator from Orange, California, drew chuckles from the Navy officers when he described Roosevelt’s exploits while Assistant Secretary of the Navy, highlighting the common heritage shared by the Refuge System and the Navy.

The Caravan left Seal Beach on March 22 on an ambitious tour of Sacramento, McNary, Tualatin River, Nisqually, Ridgefield, Humboldt Bay, Alameda, and Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes refuges before returning home to Seal Beach on April 6. The Caravan will spend the remainder of the year traveling to schools in the Los Angeles area and refuge events in southern California.

The lead vehicle is the Pelican Van and trailer, which are covered with painting of white pelicans and their habitats along the Pacific Flyway from coastal wetlands to interior grasslands and riparian areas to the great rivers of the Pacific Northwest. Four pelicans perch on top. The eye-catching design was created by artists John Spoon of Laguna Beach and Anh Pham of Long Beach, California.

Centennial Commemorative Binocular to Benefit Refuges



New to the fleet. *The Pelican Van attracts interest as it leads the Centennial Caravan on its migration up and down the Pacific Flyway. FWS photo: Susan Saul.*

Tim Anderson of Westminster, California, one of the organizers of the Caravan, traces his passion for wildlife and his support of the Refuge System to his childhood on the Texas Gulf Coast. "When I was eight years old, my grandfather took me out to see some whooping cranes and said by the time I was his age, there wouldn't be any left," Anderson said. "There were about 28 whooping cranes then. Now there are about 200 pairs. That's because of the Fish and Wildlife Service."

Anderson and his fellow travelers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but they share common goals: to protect native wildlife and habitat and to promote a new generation of naturalists with a conservation vision. They take their message to schools with a multi-media presentation on the Pacific Flyway and the role of refuges in sustaining wintering, migrating, and breeding birds.

Besides Anderson, the caravan volunteers include Bruce Monroe, Rudy Vietmeier, Lori De La Cuesta, Patti Smith, Doris Bruce, John Wilks, Don May, Karen and Tim Morey, and John Fitch. Seal Beach manager John Bradley and former manager Mike Mitchell, now the manager at Lower Suwannee NWR, accompanied the volunteers on their two week journey.

*Susan Saul, External Affairs,
Portland, Oregon*

Eagle Optics, a leading distributor of optics for birders, has created a special edition binocular to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. A portion of the proceeds from each binocular sold will be contributed to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, who will match these funds on a dollar for dollar basis and establish a grant program to benefit refuge projects.

Eagle Optics is offering an 8 x 25 compact binocular imprinted with "National Wildlife Refuges 1903-2003." The binocular is called the "Pelican," in recognition of the bird that helped get it all started at the Pelican Island NWR. It is packaged in a special box with information about the Refuge System, and includes an insert encouraging buyers to make their own contribution to the Foundation's Refuge fund. Each binocular is packaged with a case and strap, carries the Eagle Optics lifetime warranty, and retails for \$89.

"Eagle Optics will donate a portion the proceeds of each binocular sold to the Refuge System," said Ron Windingstad, Director of



Public Relations for Eagle Optics and a former employee of the Service, who also came up with the idea for a commemorative binocular. "We hope to sell at

least enough to generate \$75,000. With the Foundation's match, that creates a fund of \$150,000. It's our way of thanking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for all the pleasure the Refuge System has given nature lovers."

The Eagle Optics Pelican binocular can be ordered directly from Eagle Optics. Eagle Optics will also highlight the Refuge Centennial on the Company's website throughout the anniversary year.

For more information, contact Eagle Optics at 800/289 1132 or visit <www.eagleoptics.com>.

Peter Stangel, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

More Centennial Goodies

Two more of the three officially licensed Centennial vendors are Allen Advertising and MediaSource. While 5 percent of the gross revenue from the sale of items with the centennial logo is deposited in the Centennial Commission General fund with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the products are also available for fund-raising.

Celebrating-A-Century.com, a division of Allen Advertising, produces a comprehensive line of Centennial products designed for resale in Refuge Visitor Centers, for fund raising by Friends groups and for purchase by the Service. Items such as pewter emblem caps, copper travel mugs, glass mugs with a pewter logo, pewter key rings, and eagle clocks are selling well in Refuge stores. The company's lapel pins, tote bags, and blue goose caps were distributed by the Service at the Pelican Island Centennial celebration. New products include tee shirts, sweatshirts and a Gerber lockback knife with the Centennial logo lasered onto the blade.

By offering items at wholesale pricing, the company hopes to help Friends groups, refuges, and other organizations fundraise. Allen Advertising will work with any Service affiliate groups to customize many items for specific logos. The webstore is located at <www.celebrating-a-century.com>. Contact: Celebrating-A-Century at 412/278 3888 or <celebrate@stargate.net>.

MediaSource started working with J. N. "Ding" Darling NWR on Sanibel Island, Florida five years ago. They introduced refuge-specific items such as embroidered and silk-screened shirts/hats with wildlife designs along with other customized items that they used to sell in the visitor center. With the help of J. N. "Ding" Darling NWR and many other refuges around the country, MediaSource learned what the visitor and supporter of the NWR wanted when they visited a refuge. To shop online for Centennial merchandise, visit <www.mediasource.net>, click on "shop your catalog" and enter the password "nwr."

Centennial Countdown Tour Rolls Through Northeast Region



Bucks from Congress, via the Service to the Trust for Public Land to purchase land adjacent to the Great Meadows NWR. (Left to right) Congressman Marty Meehan from Massachusetts; Jim O'Donnell; First Selectman, Billerica; Tony Léger, National Wildlife Refuge System; Craig MacDonnell, Trust for Public Land; and Charlie Kennelly, landowner, at the Great Meadows Event passing a "big check." FWS photo.

The Blue Goose Express, a 35-foot, custom-decorated bus, pulled out from Hadley, Massachusetts, to start its 13-day tour of the Northeast Region's national wildlife refuges.

"The Blue Goose Express planned to visit 11 states, 23 refuges and cover 1,700 miles in under two weeks," said Tony Léger, Regional Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. But, by the time the tour was complete, the number of refuges grew to 28 and the miles logged reached 2,000.

The Blue Goose Express left Hadley in the middle of a blinding snowstorm as it headed for the first stop, John Heinz NWR at Tinicum. The 4.5-hour drive to Philadelphia took eight hours.

"We had a great time at John Heinz," said Léger. "We had two television stations, newspapers and partners. The Philadelphia Zoo and New Jersey State Aquarium gave demonstrations to local elementary students. There was a concert promoting the Centennial CD, Songs of the System. The CD was produced by the Friends of E.B. Forsythe NWR and is another way we are increasing public awareness of the NWRS and its mission. We also ate the first of more than 12 Centennial cakes," Léger added with a smile.

After Heinz, the tour continued to Edwin B. Forsythe NWR. "Each event is different," said Léger, "yet the constant theme of 100 years of national wildlife refuges promoting wildlife conservation for the benefit of people is a central message at each stop." Other events have included habitat restoration projects, time capsule events, refuge tours, award ceremonies, partner recognition events, open houses, live music, boat tours, and wildlife management demonstrations. "All of the events have been a huge success—a testament to the great people we have in the Service."

The Blue Goose Express is a conversation piece in its own right. Three banners decorate the bus with images of wildlife and Centennial messages, including a blue goose on the back that states, "Follow Me to YOUR National Wildlife Refuges." Tens of thousands of folks have seen the bus rolling down the interstates, parked at rest areas and stopped at hotels.

Outreach has been an integral part of the tour.

"One of the tour's signature moments was on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry," said Léger. "For the entire trip across Delaware Bay, we shared information with fellow travelers and refuge staff spent time talking to many of the people on board the ferry about the Service, the refuge system and the Centennial. Many people saw the bus and asked more about the tour. We had a good time and we helped make some new friends for the NWRS. Another outreach highlight was honoring Rich Guadagno's parents at Great Swamp NWR. Two of the songs on the Centennial CD were created from Rich's works."

The tour also involved one U.S. Senator, four U.S. Congressman, and more than 25 Congressional aides. Senator Paul Sarbanes (MD) and Congressmen Tom Davis (VA), Scott Garrett (NJ), Patrick Kennedy (RI) and Marty Meehan (MA) participated in Centennial Tour Events. "In addition we spoke to many refuge partners, Friends and supporters," said Léger.

During its 2,000 mile journey, the tour visited refuges from Virginia to Maine. Although mid-March weather in the Northeast is tricky, the Blue Goose Express rolled on through snow and sun. On March 14, the tour celebrated the System's birthday with a visit to the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex and a joint event with the National Park Service's Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home of Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 until his death in 1919.

After Long Island, the tour headed up the New England coast before returning to Hadley for a huge finale, another joint effort with a local community.

"The tour had been a great experience, one that will be a highlight of my Service career," said Léger, holding up his Centennial Countdown Tour t-shirt. The shirt highlights 23 refuges that hosted events along the tour. "From John Heinz NWR at Tinicum to Rachel Carson NWR in Wells, Maine, all the names and memories are here. I feel privileged to be a part of this great Centennial Celebration."

Edward Henry, National Wildlife Refuge System, Hadley, Massachusetts

Living History Character Adds Spirit to Whittlesey Creek NWR Time Capsule Ceremony



Reincarnation. *Frank Nebenburgh, a.k.a. Asaph Whittlesey, and Refuge Manager Pam Dryer present time capsule to audience. Wisconsin Historical Society photo.*

“Whittlesey Lives!” was the front-page headline on Ashland, Wisconsin’s daily newspaper on March 12, 2003. The news article—along with a full-color photograph—described the living history character Asaph Whittlesey, developed and played by Frank Nebenburgh, a college student and Service employee.

Whittlesey Creek NWR brought Asaph Whittlesey to its Centennial time capsule ceremony for fun and education. The involvement of the living history character succeeded—more than 100 people joined in the celebration on Friday afternoon, March 14, 2003, which is good for a small town. Many who attended commented on the fun they had at the ceremony.

Asaph Whittlesey is one of the founders of Ashland, the northern Wisconsin town where Whittlesey Creek NWR is located. Whittlesey chopped down the first tree to build the first white settler’s home in what is now Ashland. His spirit for adventure and fortune led to development in northern Wisconsin, which transformed the landscape from forest to farm 100 years ago.

Asaph Whittlesey was also the first landowner of land that is now the Whittlesey Creek NWR. As a recently established refuge, portions of the Whittlesey Creek Refuge remain owned by private landowners. So it was appropriate that some of the current landowners were also involved in the ceremony and got a chance to meet Asaph Whittlesey.

Asaph Whittlesey’s colorful legend, however, lies in his travels by snowshoe and train to Madison to represent northern Wisconsin at the State Legislature in 1860. This is the period in Whittlesey’s life depicted by Frank Nebenburgh for the time capsule ceremony. As part of the ceremony, Nebenburgh told Asaph’s story in a 10-minute monologue. He then helped the current Ashland Mayor Fred Schnook to fill the time capsule.

To get a feel for Whittlesey’s great travel adventure to Madison, participants had the chance to hike with him along a nature trail after the time capsule ceremony. The Wisconsin Historical Society and Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center teamed with the Service on this luminary-lit trek. Hikers got to learn about navigating by stars, hear about wildlife sounds in the night, and listen to stories about the Ojibwa Tribe and travelers of that era.

Through this living history character, many stories can be told of landscape changes, habitat loss, changes in fish and wildlife populations, and eventual restoration of our wildlife and land legacy through refuges and other Service programs. Asaph Whittlesey will continue to make appearances at special events during the Centennial year, at both refuge-related and local community events.

Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Ashland, Wisconsin

Hundreds Help National Elk Refuge Celebrate Centennial

At the foot of the Teton mountains in northwestern Wyoming, several thousand elk wintering on the National Elk Refuge made a picture perfect setting for an historic celebration on March 14th. Nearly 900 visitors came out to the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the host of the event, to help the Refuge celebrate the Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Dignitaries entertained and educated the crowds at the museum. Refuge Manager Barry Reiswig told visitors about the Refuge and its historical importance to the Jackson valley. Regional Director of the Service’s Mountain-Prairie Region, Ralph Morgenweck, spoke about the importance of the Refuge System to the environment and wildlife. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and former Director of the Service, John Turner, was the guest of honor, treating the crowd to his thoughts and memories of growing up in the Jackson area and how much the National Elk Refuge and the Refuge System as a whole has contributed to the conservation legacy of America.

The day started early with hundreds of school kids lining up before opening to enjoy free sleigh rides to get up-close with the elk herd on the Refuge. Western music, birthday cake, and a picturesque setting ushered in the second century of conservation at the National Elk Refuge. The nearly 900 visitors and participants were treated to a visit by Honker the Blue Goose, who entertained children throughout the day.

Deserai Anderson-Utley, External Affairs, Denver, Colorado

Exploring Our Past



Centennial Encourages Reflection

Director Dedicates Gift To Future Generations

Director Steve Williams spoke to a capacity crowd at the Indian River Mall in Vero Beach, Florida on March 13 as he unveiled the National Wildlife Refuge System Time Capsule Exhibit. The exhibit consists of a collection of artifacts from national wildlife refuges across the country. This public event was the kick-off to the National Centennial Celebration at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

More than 200 refuges, wetland management districts, and other stations submitted items to become a part of the time capsule. More than 60 of the items were featured during this first display of the time capsule. Additional items will be displayed as the exhibit moves to the Centennial Conference in November. After the conference, the time capsule will be temporarily housed at the National Conservation Training Center, until some future date when a visitors center can be constructed at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge.

In dedicating the National Centennial Time Capsule Exhibit, Director Williams spoke about the significance of the more than 100 time capsules dedicated at refuges across the country to mark the Centennial. "It is fitting that as we celebrate this Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we send forth gifts to those who will follow, in the form of time capsules," said Williams. "We are preserving information and artifacts about the work that we do today. A century from now, these will be priceless treasures to future generations."

Williams was joined at the dedication by Deputy Assistant Secretary David P. Smith, Indian River (FL) County Commissioner Arthur Neuberger, Steve Hooks of the U.S. Postal Service, and J.B. Kump, District Director for Congressman Dave Weldon. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik served as Master of Ceremonies.

The event included several special guests. Billy McCloud and the Central Assembly Music Ministries of Vero Beach opened the event and set the tone with a rousing performance of patriotic songs. The program also featured Dr. Edmund Skellings, Poet Laureate of Florida, who introduced a poetry reading by Lynne Bama of Wapiti, Wyoming. Bama's poem, *White Pelican*, was the 2003 winner of the national Nature of Nature Poetry Contest sponsored by the Laura (Riding) Jackson Home Preservation Foundation. The contest is held in honor of noted 19th century poet Laura (Riding) Jackson. This year's theme was selected as a celebration of the Refuge Centennial and of Jackson's love of the Florida environment.

Other special guests included James Foote, who gave a performance as President Theodore Roosevelt, and a march through the audience by the Peabody Orlando Ducks, and Challenger the bald eagle.

The audience of more than 600 sprawled into the mall, as people vied for a view of the event and the exhibit.

After the ceremony, Director Williams and children from the Pelican Island Elementary School Ecotroop unveiled the display to a cheering crowd.

Service Historian Mark Madison offered tours of the exhibit, created in part by Service Museum Curator Jeanne Harold, following the unveiling, using the artifacts to tell the story of how the refuge system evolved and of modern conservation on national wildlife refuges.

The event was a fitting capstone on the first 100 years of wildlife conservation in America. "Tomorrow begins the second century of conservation," said Director Williams. "By preserving our history, we are giving future generations a window into how we live and work today—and hopefully, they will take some courage, and perhaps even inspiration, by looking back upon the gifts we give them."

Kyla Hastie, Centennial Outreach Coordinator, Atlanta, Georgia

The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.

Sir Winston Churchill

Capsule Contents

America's national wildlife refuges are as diverse in artifacts as they are in wildlife. The creation of the centennial time capsule has been a fascinating historical journey itself. The diversity of objects contributed is breathtaking. Tule elk antlers from San Luis NWR Complex, walrus tusks from Togiak NWR, green sea turtle puppets from Archie Carr NWR, oil bearing rocks from Arctic NWR, bird bands from Patuxent NWR, polar bear swag from Selawik NWR, and a refuge employee uniform from Pelican Island NWR are just a small sampling of the objects that symbolize our spectacular refuge system.

To see a complete list of objects donated visit the time capsule website at <http://training.fws.gov/history/timecapsule.html>. The objects contributed to this time capsule were too beautiful and interesting—not to mention too voluminous—to bury for a hundred years, so the time capsule objects will actually be displayed around the country. The national wildlife refuge system time capsule project offers a mirror to the evolution of the refuges over the last hundred years.

No doubt future employees will be befuddled by our contemporary jargon (from ARD to CCP) while enjoying the artifacts of our period (wildlife lists, signs, scrapbooks, brochures, photos, blue goose logos). Our personnel, tools, and techniques have changed in the last century but our mission has remained steadfast to conserve our nation's wildlife for future generations over many, many centuries.

Mark Madison, Service Historian, Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Fish & Wildlife Honors

Straight from the archives.

National wildlife artist Bob Hines (1912–1994) and agency writer and editor Rachel Carson (1907–1964) spent many hours along the Atlantic coast visiting national wildlife refuges and gathering material for many of the agency's pamphlets and technical publications. Here, Hines and Carson search out marine specimens in the Florida Keys around 1955, which Hines drew as illustrations for Carson's third book, "The Edge of the Sea." By this time, Carson had left the Interior Department agency and was writing full-time as a nationally known author and popularizer of biological subjects. FWS photo: Gary Rex Schmidt.



Historic Images Online

Did we ever really look that way?

The past 100 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System are being documented on the Fish and Wildlife Service's online image library in a steadily-growing collection of downloadable historic photos.

Here, in charming black-and-white images, you'll discover overcoated Director Ira Gabrielson with his pet duck...intrepid wildlife artist Bob Hines stalking alligators in a moonlit Okefenokee swamp...the famous Rachel Carson swimsuit photo...and many more photos that depict the history and evolution of the refuge system and our agency in a simpler and more innocent era.

The collection is growing each week and is meant to consolidate many of the Service's more interesting and significant photos between 1900 and the early 1970s in a single source for the news media and the general public. Historical cutlines accompany each of the photos.

The project is the brainchild of Megan Durham in External Affairs and Kevin Kilcullen in Refuges, both in the Washington Office, and Service historian Mark Madison, with assistance from NCTC image librarian Elizabeth Jackson.

To access the new refuge system historic images collection, visit the Service's online image library <images.fws.gov> and enter the search term "centennial" to view the photos.

Loan of additional historic images from field stations for incorporation into the collection is still being invited. Contact Elizabeth Jackson at NCTC for additional details; to qualify to have your station's photos accepted, photographs must convey significant historical information of relevance to the development and growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System; present clear, sharp images; and include enough accurate historical detail to permit an accompanying cutline to be written. All loaned materials will be returned.

*David Klinger, Senior Writer/Editor,
Shepherdstown, West Virginia*

Marshall Jones, deputy director of the Service, has been selected by President Bush as a recipient of a Presidential Rank Award, a prize awarded annually to a select number of career senior executives to recognize exceptional long-term accomplishments. Jones was honored for leading the Service for more than a year while Steve Williams was awaiting confirmation as the agency's new director.

Kevin R. Adams, Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, was recognized with the Secretary's Executive Leadership Award. The award cited Adams for his leadership of law enforcement post September 11. His challenge was to ensure that wildlife inspectors assumed a greater role in homeland security while maintaining the high caliber of service that the traveling public expects. He also strengthened Service ties with the Customs Service, Interpol and the Department of Justice.

Special Agent Frank Kuncir, with the Service's law enforcement office in Fort Myers, Florida, has received the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2003 Guy Bradley Award for his contributions to protecting the Nation's wildlife resources. The award, which is named after the first wildlife law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty, was presented to Kuncir at the annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in March. Kuncir, who became a Service special agent in 1980, was recognized for his accomplishments as a criminal investigator and his success in combating such threats to wildlife as environmental contaminants and industrial hazards. His career with Service Law Enforcement has included work in Virginia and Maryland on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, in California's Central Valley, and along the southern Gulf coast of Florida.

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Fish & Wildlife Honors

(continued)

Michael B. Rearden, manager of the 20-million acre Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, is this year's recipient of the prestigious Paul Kroegel "Refuge Manager of the Year" Award. The award is given annually by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The award is presented to a currently active refuge manager whose career has shown a commitment to conservation of natural resources, superior management skills, innovative actions in response to complex issues, and effective public outreach. Rearden has been manager of Yukon Delta Refuge since 1995. A lifelong Alaskan, Rearden has spent most of his 27-year federal career working on the state's remote refuges. He is a veteran pilot with thousands of accident-free, low-level flying hours on wheels, skis, and floats. Rearden supervises a staff of approximately 50 people and a budget of more than \$3 million, administering an area the size of South Carolina. There are more than 40 individual Tribal Governments and more than 25,000 permanent residents within the refuge's borders.

The 2003 Refuge Employee of the Year is **Ann Blakley**, an administrative officer at the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming. Blakley has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Park Service and the Service for 18 years. Her job responsibilities at National Elk Refuge run the gamut from purchasing 4,000 tons of alfalfa pellets for the elk to eat during the winter; to providing administrative and budgetary support for the Elk and Bison Herd Environmental Impact Statement team; to overseeing regional audits. In 1996, Blakley was part of the refuge task force that handled construction of a new, 6,400 square-foot office building. Last fall, she was named Woman of the Year by the Jackson Hole Business and Professional Women's Club.

Bob Blohm, the Chief of the Branch of Populations and Habitat Assessment, won a Conservation Award from Ducks Unlimited at the March DU Breakfast at the North American Conference in North Carolina. Blohm is responsible for development of much of the information critical to the management of North America's waterfowl



Key scientist wins award. Bob Blohm (right) receives the Ducks Unlimited's 2003 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award from the Executive President Don Young. FWS photo: David Sharp.

resources. His passion for waterfowl, friendly personality and communication skills have been keys to effectively mediating issues with the Service Directorate, international organizations, flyway councils, state agencies, NGOs, and the public. He is highly respected among his staff, peers, and internationally for his knowledge, professionalism, and integrity. Bob doesn't seek the limelight nor does he shy from difficult tasks. He personifies many of the qualities that have helped assure that waterfowl population management in North America is a strongly science-driven activity—an approach that DU wholeheartedly embraces.

Jim Behrmann received the White House Closing the Circle Award for his commitment to environmental stewardship in June at a ceremony in Washington, DC. Nominated for his inventive uses of environmental management and procurement, Behrmann has led efforts in the regional office and at field stations to use recycled materials in building, maintenance, and purchasing decisions. He has used his position as Environmental Compliance Coordinator in the Denver regional office to promote the use of environmentally friendly products and increase recycling of materials. The award, which honors Federal employees who demonstrate leadership in helping

implement recycling, pollution prevention, green procurement, and other environmentally responsible programs was designed to foster support for green programs nationwide. Behrmann also received the Service's Environmental Leadership Award and the Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award in 2002 for his green procurement practices. The White House Closing the Circle Award winners were chosen from more than 200 nominations from across the Federal Government.

On November 6, 2002, The Nature Conservancy of Oregon conferred its annual Conservation Leadership Award-Community Partner on the Service and recognized the dedicated leadership of **Roy W. Lowe**, project leader of the Oregon Coast refuge complex. For 17 years, Lowe has championed conservation of Oregon's outstanding coastal lands and waters, and helped acquire important land for the refuge system. Working with The Nature Conservancy, he has shepherded acquisition of Coquille Point, Nestucca Bay and Siletz Bay into the National Wildlife Refuge System and the addition of the Ni-le's'tun Unit into the Bandon Marsh NWR.

The **Colorado Field Office in Lakewood** received the first annual Fish and Wildlife Service Transportation Environmental Stewardship Award, 2003. The award recognizes the Lakewood Office's extraordinary vision and active participation with the Colorado Department of Transportation toward the protection of an endangered ecosystem, while addressing the State's critical public transportation needs through implementation of the Shortgrass Prairie Initiative. Field Supervisor **Lee Carlson** accepted the award and **Alison Michael** was also noted for her active and sustained involvement with the Initiative.

Gale Norton, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, presented **Roger Boykin** the Service's Southeast Regional Fire Coordinator, Atlanta, and **Sam Gray**, Fire Control Officer at Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex in Slidell, Louisiana, with National Fire Plan awards. Boykin, a 25-year veteran with the Service, earned his award for excellence in hazardous fuel treatment. Under his leadership, the Southeast Region accomplished 184,337



Lee Carlson wins first ever Service Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award. Service Deputy Director Marshall Jones (left), Lee Carlson (center), and Deputy Assistant Secretary Paul Hoffman. FWS photo: Nicholas Throckmorton.

acres of hazardous fuel reduction projects, almost half of the total acreage throughout the entire U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Gray received her award for excellence in implementing the National Fire Plan. Since 1999, Gray and the Southeast Louisiana Refuge fire crew have suppressed more than 60 wildfires totaling over 2,400 acres.

Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery received the Service's Environmental Leadership Award for Hatchery of the Year—the first one in the nation. The hatchery was recognized for outstanding attention to safety, public outreach, recycling and general operations and maintenance.

The U.S. Department of Justice presented a Certificate of Commendation to **Wendi Weber** for "outstanding performance and invaluable assistance in support of the activities of the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Department of Justice." The presentation took place at the Robert F. Kennedy Justice Building, Washington, D.C., at the Division's annual awards ceremony on June 26, 2002. Wendi was recognized for her successful settlement negotiations for several listing and critical habitat cases. Prior to her current position

as the Manager of the Endangered Species Program for Region 1, Wendi was a staff biologist in the Division of Listing, Washington, D.C.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton last fall gave Departmental Honor Awards to three Service employees and three partners-in-mission for career accomplishments and exceptional support of the Department's mission. Distinguished Service Award for Service employees: **S. Ray Aycock, Jr.**'s for his work with partners to recover bottomland hardwood forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley; **James G. King** for his work with Alaska's birds and wildlife survey techniques; and **Carl R. Madsen** for his work in creating the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Conservation Service Award for Private Partners goes to: **Helen Hays** for protecting the largest colony of roseate terns in the Western Hemisphere on Great Gull Island; **International Paper** for its work with endangered species and habitat restorations; and the **Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission** for its work to reestablish annual runs of Atlantic salmon and American shad in the Connecticut River. The Distinguished Service Award is given to employees who stand out for their contribution to science, skill in the performance of duty or contribution to public service. The Conservation Service Award is given to private citizens and groups for contributions toward the cause of conservation and the mission of the Department. These two awards, given at the 61st Departmental Honor Awards Convocation, are the highest honor the Interior Department can bestow on employees and private citizens.

At a ceremony in Virginia Beach, seven Service employees were named regional nominees for the Third Annual Sense of Wonder Recognition Program. The Program recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation and environmental education within the Service. Service employees make these contributions by designing, implementing, or showing visionary leadership in an interpretive program or project that fosters a sense of wonder, and enhances public stewardship of our wildlife heritage. The ceremony culminated in naming one of the nominees, **Claudine Daniel** of Wichita Mountains NWR, as the national recipient. Other nominees

include: **Carol L. "Corky" Broadus**, Supervisory Information and Education Specialist, Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex, Washington; **Jim Burkhardt**, Supervisory Park Ranger, Okefenokee NWR, Folkston, Georgia; **Jackie Jacobson**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Audubon NWR, North Dakota.; **Bernard "Micky" Novak**, Hatchery Manager, Richard Cronin Salmon Station, Massachusetts; **Molly Stoddard**, Park Ranger, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin; and **Paul S. Williams, Sr.**, Refuge Information Technician, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge Biologist **Patricia Morrison** received the "River Keeper Award" at a meeting of the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education. The award is given annually to an individual or an organization who has "served in an exemplary manner to improve and safeguard the waters of the Ohio River Basin." Morrison has been the refuge biologist on the Ohio River Islands NWR since 1992. In that capacity, she has been responsible for initiating surveys to document the status of wildlife ranging from birds to mussels on the refuge's nearly 400 mile stretch of river. She is also credited with establishing monitoring sites for non-native zebra mussels in the Ohio River both on and off the refuge.

Phil Million, Chief of the Division of Conservation Partnerships, received his 40-year pin from Director Steve Williams during a surprise ceremony at the Open House for the new office of Migratory Birds and Sate Programs in Arlington, Virginia. Million was formerly Chief of Public Affairs.

In Douglas, Georgia, Congressman Kingston presented the 2002 Mal Vass award to the Service's **Ann Feltner**, "in recognition of her Outstanding Service to the People of the 1st Congressional District, January 18, 2003." Mal Vass was a member of Congressman Kingston's staff who died unexpectedly in 1995 of a stroke. The award named in his honor is presented once a year to a federal employee.

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Fish & Wildlife Honors

(continued)

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery Friends Group was chosen as Fisheries Partner of the Year. The program's oldest and largest friends group is headquartered at th in Spearfish, South Dakota. The group works in partnership with the Service; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks; American Fisheries Society; and the City of Spearfish to operate the national repository and educational site for fisheries history. It helps raise money to preserve historic structures and items, and hosts numerous community events.

A. Eric Alvarez, realty chief, awarded **Robert L. Williams** from the United States Postal Service with a letter and award from Service Director Steve Williams. The letter expressed appreciation for all his assistance and support of the Service's Federal Duck Stamp Program. The United States Postal Service and the Service sold the 2001–2002 Junior Duck Stamp in the USA Philatelic catalog. The result was that in the first 8 months that USPS sold the Junior Duck Stamp, more Junior Duck Stamps were sold than Service sold in the previous 8 years of the program. Also, the sale of the Artist Commemorative Card and the First Day Ceremony Program through the USA Philatelic "sold out" in the first 6 months of sale. This was another record for sales of our products. Williams' greatest accomplishment has been to renew and strengthen the Service/USPS partnership.

The Service's **Arizona Fishery Resources Office** (AZFRO) was awarded the Service's Southwest Region Field Station of the Year, 2002. The AZFRO topped over 50 field stations in the Southwest Region for the coveted award. Station leader, Stewart Jacks, and his assistant, Rob Simmonds, accepted the award from Regional Director, Dale Hall. The AZFRO earned the award for its success in sportfish management on Tribal lands in Arizona, Apache trout recovery, and Colorado River fishes recovery. The AZFRO has offices in Pinetop, San Carlos, Flagstaff, and Parker, Arizona.

2003 Customer Service Excellence Awards

Director's Nomination for Secretary's Customer Service Excellence Award
West Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Team/Office Awards
Association for Conservation Information (ACI) 60th Annual Conference Committee, Refuges Visitor Satisfaction Survey Team, Chula Vista Nature Center, Ecosystem Restoration Branch, Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office, Region 3 Sign Shop, Region 3 Division of Budget and Finance, Region 5 Fish Passage Team, Creston National Fish Hatchery, Volunteers from Great Plains Communications, Inc. and Region 7, Office of Subsistence Management.

Individual Awards
Duncan Creaser, Region 5, Division of Engineering; Mari Garcia, Pacific Theatres; Nancy Ferguson, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office; Richard Johnson, Region 7, Review Appraiser; Lecita Monsoon, Region 7, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge; and Stephanie Weagley, Region 2, Ecological Services Division.

Transitions... Who's Coming and Going

Cathy Short, Assistant Director-Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, retired from the Service March 1. Short was involved in the natural resources field for more than 30 years, both in government and in the private sector. Much of her career was spent in the field of aquatic resource conservation and prior to joining the Service, she spent 11 years as a consultant on environmental issues, including natural resource management and the impacts of development on wetlands and associated fish and wildlife resources. Within the Service, Short held a variety of positions, including liaison to the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Deputy Regional Director for the Service's Northeast Region. Short received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1998. She and her husband, Hank, plan to reside in the Southwest.

Mike Smith, the External Affairs deputy assistant director, retired in April. During his career with the Service, Smith has worked tirelessly to improve the professionalism of Service communications. During his Service career, he worked in W.O. Public Affairs, as an ARD in Region 6, as the head of education/outreach at NCTC, and as Deputy Assistant Director for External Affairs. His vision contributed enormously to the development of the IMPACT training for project leaders. He nurtured relationships with State I & E personnel through the ACI and helped guide the development of the successful ACI conference at NCTC last year. He also worked closely with the Native American liaison program, and assisted the Fisheries Program with its recent anniversary.

The new Region 1 Deputy Regional Director, left vacant by Rowan Gould's departure for Alaska, is **David Wesley**, former Assistant Regional Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs in Portland. Wesley joined the Service in 1978 and served as a biologist in the Endangered Species program as well as Chief of the Branch of Management Operations in the Office of Endangered Species in Washington, D.C. He spent five years as the field supervisor of the Jacksonville, Florida Ecological Services field office and eight years as State Supervisor for Ecological Services in Florida. Wesley moved to Region 1 in 1996 where he has held the positions of Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the Northwest Forest Plan office, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services, and Geographic Assistant Regional Director for the North Coast and Pacific Islands Ecoregions.

Lee Andrews has been selected to manage the new Ecological Services Program Field Office in Frankfort, Kentucky. Andrews, an eight-year Service veteran, has spent the majority of his career working in the Program. Andrews will supervise projects and regulatory processes, endangered species management, private lands habitat restoration and management initiatives, and contaminants. His most recent position was as Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist in the Migratory Birds and State Programs Division in the Atlanta Regional Office. In this position, he was responsible for coordinating carbon sequestration partnerships with the energy industry to reforest priority wildlife habitats throughout the Southeast.

Robert G. Ruesink, Supervisor, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho, retired from the Service in January. His 29-year career in natural resources spanned five states; Wisconsin, Utah, Oregon, Washington, D.C., and Idaho and two federal agencies; the Bureau of Land Management the Service.

After 29 years with the Service, payroll coordinator **Emma Moton** has retired. Her name was on the return address of biweekly payroll statements that go to every agency employee. Moton joined the old Civil Service Commission, predecessor to the Office of Personnel Management in 1966, concentrating on retirement and payroll operations. In 1973, she transferred to the Service, joining eight other clerks who handled payroll for the entire agency. Please see *Fish and Wildlife News*, March/April/May 2002, page 10, for the story on Emma Moton.

Eric Alvarez has been selected as the new Chief of Realty. Alvarez previously worked as a realty specialist. He came to Washington, D.C. from the Region 4 Realty Office.

Mitch Ellis, is the first-ever, Chief of NWRS Law Enforcement. Ellis is currently Chief of the Wildlife Resources Branch, in the Division of Natural Resources. He has served in that capacity for about a year. Ellis graduated from the University of Arizona and was a co-op student at San Bernadino and Aransas NWRs. He began his career at Havasu NWR, in 1988, where he received his law enforcement commission. He held that commission through tours at Eufala NWR, Ohio River NWR, and finally, for over four years as project leader at Imperial NWR.

Dick Cole is the new Chief of the Communications Branch in the Division of Visitor Services and Communications of the National Wildlife Refuge System. He will coordinate the communications and outreach efforts of the Refuge System. Immediately prior to his employment with the Service, Cole was a senior communications analyst with MPRI employed on a contract with the U.S. Army where he conducted strategic communications planning and outreach communications activities for the Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff. Cole is a public affairs specialist with more than 30 years of experience. He is a retired Air Force officer, the author of two books and the contributor of photography to 19 books.

Mike Long is the new Field Supervisor of the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office. Long comes from the Field Supervisor of the Cheyenne Field Office in Wyoming, where he has been for the last 5 years. He recently completed the Advanced Leadership Training Course at NCTC, serving a 60-day detail in the Atlanta Regional Office with Refuges as part of the Training. He has been involved in a number of endangered species issues in Wyoming, including grizzly bear, wolf, and Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

Barry Christenson, previously Wetland District Manager, Litchfield WMD, Minnesota, is the new Refuge Supervisor, Area 1, Region 3. Christenson has spent a number of years on Refuges in and outside of Region 3. He has served as a Biologist, Assistant Refuge Manager, and Project Leader.

Sheldon Myerchin is the new Project Leader for the Minnesota Private Lands Office, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Myerchin was the Refuge Operations Specialist at Leopold Wetland Management District in Wisconsin. Myerchin has a long history with Refuges and has implemented the "Partners Program" at a number of field stations.

More than 27-year fisheries veteran **Carl Burger** has filled a new position as manager of the Maine Fisheries Program Complex, in East Orland, to supervise project leaders at Craig Brook and Green Lake NFHs, and the Maine Fishery Resources Office. Burger comes from the Service's Abernathy Fish Technology Center in Longview, Washington, where he oversaw research in fish genetics, nutrition, pathology and physiology as the center director for six years. The research effort he led developed and improved fish hatchery techniques and focused on using hatcheries as conservation tools for Pacific salmon and steelhead restoration and recovery. Prior to his position at Abernathy, Burger worked in Alaska for 21 years where he conducted research on wild populations of Pacific salmon.

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Transitions...Who's Coming and Going (continued)

Mike Ielmini has recently accepted a new position as the National Invasive Species Coordinator for the United States Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Ielmini began his service to the Refuge System as a volunteer in 1984 and landed his first permanent position in 1988 at the Piedmont NWR near his home in Georgia. Ielmini has served on National Wildlife Refuges in Mississippi (Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR and St. Catherine Creek NWR), Tennessee (Reelfoot NWR, Lake Isom NWR, Lower Hatchie NWR, and Chickasaw NWR), North Carolina (Pee Dee NWR), and South Carolina (Carolina Sandhills NWR and ACE Basin NWR). Ielmini has been in the Refuge System headquarters in Arlington since 1998, serving as the national volunteer and partnerships coordinator, national invasive species program coordinator, and the acting Chief for the Branch of Wildlife Resources.

Chris Pease is the new National Wildlife Refuge System Chief of Branch of Natural Resources. During the past four years, Pease has served as Refuge Manager at the Southwest Louisiana Refuge Complex. Previously, he was the Refuge Manager at Matagorda Island NWR for eight years. Pease began his professional career with the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game, where he worked for five years. He earned his degree in biological sciences at Corpus Christi State University.

Scott Glup is the new Project Leader at Litchfield Wetland Management District, in west-central Minnesota. Glup was a Refuge Operations Specialist at Sand Lake NWR, Complex, in South Dakota and has extensive experience with Refuges, the Waterfowl Production Areas, program, and the Partners for Fish & Wildlife program. He is a prairie/wetland enthusiast and has a passion for habitat conservation and restoration.

In Memoriam

Harvey Willoughby passed away at his home in Montrose, Colorado, last December 2002 at the age of 84. He had been fighting lymphoma for some time. Harvey was a major in WW II and was awarded a Bronze Star. After the war, he completed his education earning a BS degree from Montana State University and began his career with the then Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife. He was widely known for his work in trout nutrition and diet development at Spearfish, South Dakota. His expertise in trout hatchery operations led him to Washington, D.C., as Chief of the National Fish Hatchery System. During his tenure there, he was instrumental in developing a national fish health and disease control policy. In 1972 he returned to his native Colorado as the Regional Director of Region 6 stationed in Denver. He retired from this position in 1979.

David Leland Olsen died of complications of Wegener's granulomatosis in January 2003. Olsen was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and attended Long Island Agriculture College for two years and then enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict. After his service in the Army, he attended Bridgewater College and received a BA degree in Biology. He completed his MA degree in Zoology at Southern Illinois University, and went to work for the Service. His career began at the Agassiz NWR and on to Lake Andes NWR. In 1968, he moved to Hawaii where Olsen was the Assistant Manager of Hawaiian NWR. In 1973, Dave moved to Washington, D.C. where he served in a number of capacities. In 1984, he was transferred to Anchorage, Alaska where he served as Deputy Regional Director. In 1989, he moved back to Washington, D.C. and was named the Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife. During his years with the Department of Interior, Dave received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service award. Dave retired in 1994, after 32 years of service.



Rex C. Tice

Rex C. Tice, 90, a World War II veteran and retired law enforcement officer with the Service, died March 22 at his home in North Andover, Massachusetts. In 1942 he joined the Wisconsin Conservation Department, but his career as a game warden was put on hold when he was conscripted for military service in 1943. He flew several combat missions during the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of Wessel and the Crossing of the Rhine in 1944-45. Tice returned to Wisconsin where he resumed his career as a game warden. In 1953, Tice joined the Service as a law enforcement agent in the Midwest. In 1960, he was reassigned to Washington, D.C., where he helped draft regulations for migratory waterfowl hunting and the protection of the bald eagle and whooping crane. Tice was promoted and transferred to Boston in 1964, where he became regional supervisor of law enforcement.

Fish & Wildlife... In Brief

Permits Web Portal Online

Did you know that dog/wolf hybrids need CITES permits or that the import or export of DNA from protected wildlife or plant tissue is regulated through permits? To find out more about the Service's permitting processes and responsibilities, visit <http://permits.fws.gov>. The new portal site offers an alphabetical listing by topic of commonly asked permit questions and application forms, a step-by-step guide on how to obtain a permit, and much more. The Endangered Species, International Affairs, Law Enforcement, and Migratory Birds programs worked together to create the site.

Delta Air Lines Promotes National Wildlife Refuges for Centennial

If you flew on Delta Air Lines during the month of February, and you may have seen a special video to commemorate the Centennial anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The video highlights the role that National Wildlife Refuges and partners like The Nature Conservancy have played to protect fish and wildlife in America. The initial video editing was done at the National Conservation Training Center and the final cut was accomplished at Crawford Communications of Atlanta through partially donated services. The video aired on 1,577 domestic and international flights throughout February. A full-page public service announcement showcasing the partnership between the three groups also appeared in the February issue of Delta's Sky Magazine. Delta has also created a Web site, <http://www.dalenvironmental.com>, dedicated to showcasing its environmental stewardship.

NASCAR Driver Ward Burton Promotes National Wildlife Refuge System

Last year, Ward Burton crossed the finish line in first place at the 2002 Daytona 500 in his yellow and black #22 CAT car. This year, driver and primary sponsor Caterpillar Inc. are teaming up outside the racetrack to place wildlife conservation in victory lane. Along with the Service, Burton and representatives from Caterpillar will be working together to promote wildlife conservation and education, and to highlight the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Much of the hard work on refuges involves on-the-ground habitat restoration, from stabilizing stream banks, to constructing water delivery systems that sustain functioning wetlands.

Such endeavors require the use of heavy equipment, the kind of machines made by Caterpillar. An avid outdoorsman and conservationist, Ward Burton founded the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation in 1996. The foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural environment for future generations.

Recovering the Missouri River Dinosaur

Pallid sturgeon are sometimes called "the dinosaur of the Missouri River." With its long, flat snout, a few rows of bony scales, and a growth potential of seven feet, it certainly looks prehistoric. And in fact, the species descends from fish that inhabited the Missouri and Mississippi rivers 70 million years ago. Today, biologists are struggling to keep the endangered fish from going the way of the dinosaurs. Last Nov. 1, biologists with the Service released several hundred young, nine-inch pallid sturgeon into the waters of the Big Muddy, near Booneville, Missouri. The fish were spawned at the Miles City, Montana, State Fish Hatchery and subsequently raised at the Service's Neosho National Fish Hatchery in southwestern Missouri, with financial support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The recent release is one in an ongoing series of stocking efforts throughout the Lower Missouri River.

Service To Administer Submission of Drug Applications to FDA

The Service's National Fish Hatchery System will administer a national partner-based program designed to manage all aspects of drug submissions to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in Federal, state, Tribal and private aquaculture programs. Public and private aquaculture in the United States has struggled for years because of a severe shortage of FDA-approved drugs for use in aquatic species. This Service-directed program—the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership—will go a long way to correct that situation. Public aquaculture facilities and private fish farms in the United States now raise more than 100 species of aquatic animals, but FDA-approved drugs to treat disease in the majority of these species are non-existent. Successful control of treatable diseases in all animals, including humans, requires having more than one drug available for any given ailment because reliance on a single drug may quickly render that medicine ineffective.

Posing as Hunters, FWS Agents Bust Guide Who Hunted Protected Birds

A Florida man has been indicted and arrested for a variety of illegal hunting activities. The eight-count indictment against him was returned by a federal grand jury in Miami late January. It charges him with violating and conspiring to violate the federal Lacey Act by providing hunting guide services "for the illegal taking, acquiring, possessing and transporting" of protected migratory birds in exchange for a fee. As further alleged in the indictment, while operating a guided hunting excursion in the vicinity of Lake Istakpoga in Highlands County, the man personally engaged in various illegal activities involving the hunting party. He hunted federally protected species of migratory birds, and assisted other members of the hunting party in doing the same. According to the indictment, the man who operated his guiding service under the name "Outwest Farms," was unaware that two members of his hunting party were Special Agents of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement posing as customers.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Experts Gathered in Savannah

In late January, more than 300 experts from the private, state and federal sectors gathered in Savannah, Georgia for a week of presentations, discussions, lessons learned, and best management practices for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The meeting, known as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Symposium, has been held on three other occasions since 1971, each time bringing together the best and the brightest in the field of red-cockaded woodpeckers. The Service has gathered the information from the many presentations and papers offered at the conference into a book that, along with the recovery plan, will become a strong foundation to guide recovery of this endangered bird over the next decade. The inch-and-a-half thick revised recovery plan incorporates the latest and best science available with volumes of data including: red-cockaded woodpecker population viability, habitat and monitoring, life history and ecology, sociobiology, ecosystem relationships, population and habitat monitoring, management techniques and recovery strategies.

One Hand Shake at a Time

We in the Fish and Wildlife Service sometimes speak a language all our own; but the word "partnership" is universal throughout the agency. Just ask Jim Minnerath and Bob Lee. Jim works for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in Kansas. Bob is a cattle rancher in Montana. Together, they led an effort to establish a new partnership between the Service and National Cattlemen's Beef Association called "Walk a Mile in My Boots." The agreement, signed in late July, marks the latest step in the Service's effort to build partnerships to do good things on the ground.

We can learn from existing partnerships, too. The Blackfoot Challenge, a long-standing collaborative success story in the Blackfoot River Valley of Montana, played a major role in the June Conservation Partnerships in Practice roundtable training course which I attended. At this course, participants learned first hand, from the Service's Greg Neudecker, how successful partnerships work.

Partnerships are the cornerstone of fish and wildlife conservation. Enhancing the partnerships we have and establishing new ones should be business-as-usual for the Service. To help accomplish this, I recently expanded the Conservation Partnerships Liaison Division (CPLD) and assigned it to External Affairs. This division will work with all levels of the Service to seek new partnerships, identify new opportunities within existing partnerships, and increase the visibility of these partnerships. I've asked this office to develop new ways to help the Service work even more effectively with its partners.

Hosting conservation forums is one new way we're working with partners. At the National Conservation Training Center in February, the Service held its first conservation forum for representatives of 47 hunting and fishing organizations. A number of specific recommendations for possible future action flowed from this forum. The Directorate has analyzed these recommendations, and we are preparing to report the results back to forum participants and interested Service employees. Our partners said the forum succeeded in helping us revitalize our agency's relationship with them.

Building on that success, the Service will sponsor a second conservation forum with land trust partners in the fall. Organizations like the Land Trust Alliance and the Conservation Fund along with others will help identify new opportunities to work with the Service on land acquisition issues. We also are considering a forum with our migratory bird partners in early 2004.

The latest agreement with the cattlemen is just one I've signed to establish or strengthen a critical partnership, and it will enable Service employees, ranchers, and farmers to spend real time on each other's turf. Although the Service already collaborates with ranchers and farmers through Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and other efforts, this agreement—which would not be possible without the hard work of our own Heather Johnson, Anita Noguera, and Martha Naley—is a significant addition to that working relationship.

As our population continues to increase, wildlife habitat maintained on farms and ranches becomes increasingly important to conservation. We know if these areas are

developed, significant wildlife habitat will be lost forever. That's why we're providing incentives for private landowners to provide habitat for wildlife. Our efforts to partner with ranchers will produce benefits for endangered and declining species across the country and hopefully help ranch families keep their traditions alive.

Bob Lee and Jim Minnerath understand what is possible. One handshake at a time, one acre at a time, working cooperatively with our partners, we can make a real difference for wildlife and habitat for years to come.

Steve Williams



The Fish and Wildlife News would like to thank retirees Denny Holland and Jo Quinter for all of their efforts in updating and managing the *News'* database. They have spent many hours over the last year finding retirees interested in receiving the *News* and correcting address changes. If you are a retiree interested in finding out what is going on in the Service community, please send an e-mail to Denny Holland at <denny_holland@fws.gov>.

Fish & Wildlife News

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